FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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LD151310 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Hostages — The Iranian Embassy denied that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite or any of the U.S. hostages kidnapped in Lebanon are being held by the Iranian Government, Beirut radio reported. A spokesman dismissed reports that Waite has been transferred to Tehran, stating that none of the hostages is in Tehran and that Iran has no connection with the hostages. The Iranian denial followed an *Al-Shira'* report that a number of hostages have been transported to Tehran, as well as an article by the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* which said that Waite was recently transferred to Tehran. *Al-Shira'* cited indications of an internal Iranian dispute over the fate of the hostages, Beirut radio noted. Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri is reportedly urging that they be brought to trial, while Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani favors exchanging them for U.S. arms and for the release of frozen Iranian assets. The *Al-Shira'* report, which cited a source "very close" to Montazeri's office, also stated that hostages are being interrogated under the auspices of the Iranian intelligence minister and that contacts are underway between Washington and Tehran on the hostage issue, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

The *Al-Ittihad* story on Terry Waite asserted that he was twice moved from Beirut to Tehran during recent weeks in connection with contacts between the Anglican Church and Iran over his fate and that of other British hostages. Citing "sources close to Waite's family," *Al-Ittihad* said that contacts between the Anglican Church and Hashemi-Rafsanjani made progress toward Waite's release, but the Majlis speaker halted these contacts before final agreement was reached without giving any reasons. London's *Sunday Telegraph* expressed the view that Waite is doomed to remain a prisoner unless the United States is prepared to make a deal with Iran over the hostages kidnapped in Lebanon, noting the *Al-Shira'* editor's view that Iran ordered the kidnapping of Waite, who was really working for the Americans rather than for the Anglican Church.

Attacks on SLA — Two South Lebanese Army men were killed and 12 wounded in attacks on their positions 13 June, Jerusalem radio reported. The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement carried by Voice of National Resistance radio.

Karami Inquiry — A military source cited by Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed that the Military Council has told the committee investigating Rashid Karami's assassination to expand its inquiry and identify those responsible for the security breach that allowed an explosive device to be placed on board the helicopter. The Council gave these instructions during a 12 June joint meeting with the investigating committee. Military sources cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio the same day named four Army officers allegedly involved in the assassination plot.

National Front — The nationalist and progressive parties have failed to reach agreement with the Amal Movement on a political and organizational program for their planned National Front, Beirut radio disclosed in a 14 June report on the talks between the parties. The Ba'th Party organization leader noted that attitudes toward the Palestinians and the annulment of the Cairo agreement were among the remaining unresolved issues.

Iran

Vorontsov Visit — "At no time and on no issues" does the USSR have interests or directions parallel to those of U.S. "imperialism," Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov stated in remarks cited by Tehran radio 13 June. Vorontsov, who arrived in Tehran the previous day, reportedly warned that the Americans are "planning some projects against Iran and the USSR in the Persian Gulf," adding that the USSR has a great deal of respect for the Iranian revolution. According to the radio, Vorontsov subsequently told Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani that the USSR does not want the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf. For Iran's part, Hashemi-Rafsanjani told his guest that the United States used the USSR's "small action" in the Gulf as an excuse for "adventurism." IRNA reported that Vorontsov also met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who stressed that the task of maintaining security in the Gulf is the responsibility of the regional states and "no foreign power or superpower" has the right to intervene or will be allowed to do so. Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi informed the Soviet visitor of Iran's willingness to further deepen bilateral relations, the agency noted.

Other Diplomatic Developments — The Japanese foreign minister arrived in Tehran 14 June, stating that his visit will be a good opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and regional issues, IRNA reported. Foreign Minister Velayati had earlier visited Beijing where he gave PRC President Li Xiannian a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i, IRNA noted. The Chinese president called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war, *Xinhua* said, and Velayati later told a press conference that Iran has not received any weapons from the PRC, either directly or indirectly.

In another development, Tehran radio announced Prime Minister Musavi's departure for Turkey 15 June at the start of a 2-day official visit. Musavi will subsequently visit Syria, KUNA disclosed.

Row With UK — Among press comment reviewed by Tehran radio over the weekend, *Ettela'at* stated that if necessary Iran should expel the remaining British diplomats and close the British interests section in Tehran. The paper likened Britain to "an old and antiquated vulture," and stressed that Iran must humiliate and punish it.

Military Readiness — In remarks cited by IRNA 14 June, the ground forces commander stated that the Iranian Army is "fully ready" to launch operations on Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's orders "wherever necessary and whenever required."

DRA

Najibullah Report to PDPA — According to Kabul radio, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah in his report to the 10 June Central Committee plenum called for contacts with representatives of the

monarchists, political figures of earlier regimes, influential spiritual leaders, and armed opposition groups inside the country to exert "political pressure" on the "internal and external" counterrevolution. Najibullah noted the failure of efforts by the resistance to create a government in exile and remarked that most supporters of the opposition are now using the language of compromise. He went on to stress that the policy of national reconciliation is "more difficult and more complex" than envisaged and that it cannot be solely the work of the party and state. Najibullah asserted that a coalition of "all patriotic forces in the country" is attainable and would not be limited to the allocation of "two or three positions" to the opposition.

Reports of Soviet-Kabul Losses — DRA forces recently suffered "heavy losses" among the more than 1,000 boys conscripted and sent to Qandahar and other areas along the border with Pakistan, according to refugee sources cited by *Xinhua*. Kabul hospitals are overcrowded with casualties from Qandahar, the sources said. The objective of the offensive, in which the Soviets heavily bombed and strafed Qandahar suburbs, was to seal the border with Pakistan and cut off Qandahar from its rebel-administered suburbs.

Further on Downing of Plane — A major general was among those killed on board the AN-26 plane shot down 11 June over Zabol Province, according to a Kabul radio report cited by *Xinhua*. The general was identified by the radio on 11 June as having been killed by "extremist opposition elements" while explaining the policy of national reconciliation in Qandahar Province. The agency cited resistance sources who said the plane was a military aircraft transporting Soviet and Afghan soldiers to a district of Qandahar Province where fighting was going on.

Israel and the PLO

MK Charlie Biton was summoned for questioning by police on his return to Israel from Budapest, Jerusalem radio reported. Biton and other members of his delegation subsequently held a news conference on the results of their talks with PLO officials, the radio noted, adding that delegation members said the PLO representatives had expressed recognition of the State of Israel.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, who headed the PLO delegation in Budapest, told the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* that the PLO will be ready to accept a mutual cease-fire with Israel if Arab-Israeli negotiations start in the framework of an international conference, with Israel recognizing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinians, KUNA reported. A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary on the Budapest meeting stressed that the PLO "does not hesitate" to meet with Jewish leftists who support Palestinian rights and the creation of a Palestinian state. While acknowledging that the Jewish leftists are unlikely to have much influence on Israeli decision-making, the radio contended that such meetings help unmask the "true face" of the Israeli Government, which continues to deny Palestinian rights despite its talk about peace. The "rabid campaign" inside Israel against members of the delegation that went to Budapest illustrates the kind of peace Israel wants and the kind of democracy it has, the radio added.

In another development, Jerusalem radio reported that several hundred Palestinians and Israelis marched through East Jerusalem 14 June to protest 20 years of Israeli occupation. This is the first time police have allowed Palestinians to demonstrate against Israeli rule, the radio noted.

Syria

Prime Minister 'Abd Al-Ra'uf al-Kasm denied there are any arrangements for meetings between Syrian and Iraqi officials, the UAE's *Al-Ittihad al-Usbu'i* reported. The prime minister's remarks, made during a visit to Jordan, followed numerous press reports that the Syrian and Iraqi presidents would meet in Amman at the end of June. Meanwhile, Egypt's *Al-Akhbar* published a report on the recent alleged secret meeting between the two presidents in Jordan. The meeting, which lasted 13 hours and was attended by Jordan's King Husayn, included "violent" arguments and ended without any agreement being reached, but Syria's Al-Asad emerged happy since he achieved his objective of sending a "message" to Iran.

Algeria

New Appointments — President Chadli Benjedid appointed El Hadi Khediri as interior minister 13 June, replacing M'hamed Hadj Yala, Algiers radio announced. Abdelmajid Bouzbid takes up Khediri's former post of director general of national security. Bendjedid also appointed a new army chief of staff and reshuffled several other top military posts.

Security — The trial will begin 15 June of 208 people accused of murder, sabotage, and other criminal activities, Algiers radio stated.

Jallud Visit — Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud began an official visit to Algiers 14 June, stating on his arrival that the talks will cover Arab affairs and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation, Algiers radio reported. Jallud also expressed hope that the visit will crystallize "unity-seeking action," JANA noted.

Tunisia

Security forces recently discovered the headquarters of a "Khomeyniite secret organization" in the Tunis suburbs, Tunis radio announced, adding that some of the group's leaders were arrested. The authorities have also apprehended two Khomeyniite "terrorist" gangs, whose members have confessed that they were planning to carry out sabotage and subversive acts, the radio said. Weapons and explosives were found in their homes and hideouts.

Egypt

About 150 detainees held in connection with the attempted assassination of former Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha have been released, MENA noted.

Iranian, Iraqi Officials Said To Meet in Algiers

JN111124 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
11 Jun 87 pp 1, 33

[Text] Well-informed Arab sources have stated that efforts by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to reach a speedy resolution of the Iraq-Iran conflict have made considerable progress toward ending this 7-year old war.

These sources said that the Saudi monarch's diplomatic contacts with officials in both countries have resulted in an agreement for officials from both countries to meet in Algiers and agree on the principles of negotiations.

Citing an Iraqi official, the sources reported that this meeting will be a prelude to other later meetings in Baghdad and Tehran. The sources added that the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who will attend the Algiers meeting, will also present a draft plan to end the Iraq-Iran war. This plan will be presented to the Iraqi and Iranian leaders for discussion.

In another development, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister will arrive in Tehran in a few days to discuss developments in the Gulf war with Iranian officials.

Syria, UAE Mediating To End Iraq-Iran War

JN131845 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
12 Jun 87 pp 1, 7

[Text] Amman — *Al-Bayan* has learned that Syria and the UAE are currently engaged in finalizing a bilateral mediation effort intended to end the 7-year-old Guif war.

Citing circles in the Syrian delegation, which is currently visiting Amman, informed sources here said that important meetings will be held between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Shaykh Zayid is expected to visit Damascus soon in order to draw up the working plan required by the bilateral mediation in consultation with the concerned Arab capitals.

These sources have indicated that a high-ranking Iranian envoy may arrive in Damascus to meet with Shaykh Zayid and the Syrian president. The meeting would be for the purpose of exchanging views on the broad lines of this initiative before it is officially presented to the Gulf war parties.

During the past few days Damascus, Tehran, and Abu Dhabi have exchanged messages, dispatched envoys, and held overt and covert contacts and consultations to achieve this.

Al-Asad-Saddam Meeting in Jordan Detailed

JN140512 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
12 Jun 87 pp 5, 16

["An Arab Tale" by Wajih Abu Dhikra: "The Saddam-Al-Asad Meeting"]

[Text] King Husayn is one of the Arab leaders who courageously supports Iraq in its war with the Persians. He also tries to pool Arab forces in support of Iraq and through his smart political calculations views Syria's neutrality in this war as one of the most important factors. Syria's neutrality means that the Iraqi organs will pay attention only to the Gulf war, that the cost of transporting Iraqi oil will be reduced, and that the valuable time needed to convey weapons and ammunition from other countries via Syrian ports and territory will be shortened. Syria's neutrality also means that it would be possible to hold an Arab summit to support Iraq. Al-Asad knows this very well.

King Husayn has worked until he managed to get a secret summit between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad which he himself attended. Al-Asad agreed on last month's meeting due to Iranian-Syrian differences on the over $2 billion Syrian debt to Iran. Al-Asad attended the meeting to learn which side would give him more, Iraq or Iran. But deep in his heart he preferred to benefit from Iran.

A Palestinian source whom I trust has said that this conference was actually held in a tent on the Jordanian border. The meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn lasted 13 hours with King Husayn attending. The criticism exchanged between the two presidents grew so heated that the Iraqi president was about to slap the Syrian president.

The Syrian president submitted imaginary demands as a price for his neutrality in the Iraq-Iran war. He was said to have demanded $5 billion as a first step on the pretext of repaying debts to Iran,in addition to requesting oil free of charge. Al-Asad said that he obtains greater supplies of oil from Iran than he needs and that he sells the remainder to other countries because he greatly needs hard currency. The talks lasted for almost 13 continuous hours. They included violent arguments and lessons on the one Arab nation, whichhas an immortal message, as well as a lesson on pan-Arabism and the components of Arabism. However, Al-Asad did not comprehend this lesson. The meeting ended without any agreement being reached. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad emerged a happy man. He had achieved his objective because the meeting itself was a Syrian message addressed to Iran. The Iranians had begun to grow reluctant to supply their oil to Syria. They were also beginning to demand debt repayments.

Several days later, Israel broadcast a report on the meeting through Yitzhaq Rabin and several U.S. newspapers which are close to the Zionist lobby in Washington. This means that Syria, the partner of the Israelis in slaughtering, killing, and torturing Palestinians in Lebanon, leaked the report to Israel. Immediately after the report on the meeting was broadcast from Tel Aviv, an Iranian delegate signed an agreement with Syria to provide the price, which was 1 million metric tons of oil free of charge in

addition to 2 million metric tons of oil at reduced prices. The three capitals denied the report on the meeting. However, Al-Asad's message had already arrived in Tehran via Tel Aviv and Washington, and once again Tehran began to pay funds to Syria, forgetting the debts which Syria owes.

All of the aforementioned details are only a meager part of events during these 13 hours. What happened was horrible and affirmed the Syrian role in the region. I address these words to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to discuss and announce what took place in the tripartite summit, which is no longer secret. Damascus is saying false things about this summit behind the scenes. President Saddam Husayn is dutybound to tell the Arab nation about the secrets of this meeting. In this way, the whole Arab world will know the truth about this anti-Arab Syrian regime.

O Arab nation, pan-Arab causes are sold this way. They have a price list in the political world. Hence, nothing is sacred to Al-Asad any more and everything can be sold or purchased. I warmly appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to tell this nation about what happened at the meeting, which is no longer a secret.

Other Leaders May Attend Iraqi-Syrian Summit

JN131805 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
12 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned from Arab sources that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have expressed a willingness to participate in the Iraqi-Syrian summit if it is convened as a result of Jordanian efforts aimed at reconciling Baghdad and Damascus. These sources added that Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz will personally attend the expected summit meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in view of the fact that Jordanian-Saudi efforts to this end have been fully integrated.

PLO Ready To Accept 'Ceasefire' With Israel

LD150946 Kuwait KUNA in English 0844 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 15 (KUNA) — PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin) Monday said the PLO is ready to accept a mutual ceasefire with Israel provided that Arab-Israeli negotiations start in a framework of an international conference, with Israel recognizing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

In an interview with local daily *Al-Ittihad*, Abu Mazin maintained that Palestinian-Israeli talks, similar to those held in Bucharest and Budapest, may take place in the future prior to convocation of the peace international conference.

The Palestinian official, who chaired the Palestinian side in Bucharest meeting, voiced PLO preparedness to meet Israeli figures on the basis of recognizing the PLO and Palestinians' right to statehood.

Such meetings may in the long run have a slow impact on the Israeli community's mentality, he contended.

Abu Mazin, however, reiterated PLO rejection of direct talks with Israel outside the international peace conference, pointing out that such a stance is determined by the highest Palestinian authority, the Palestine National Council.

'Arafat Adviser Calls for PLO-Israeli Talks

JN141210 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
13 Jun 87 pp 1, 24

[By Salam Musafir]

[Excerpt] Budapest — *Al-Anba'* — 'Imad Shaqqur, [PLO Executive Committee Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for Israeli affairs, has said that no international conference will be a success unless it is preceded and prepared for by direct official Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

In an exclusive statement to *Al-Anba'*, Shaqqur added that this necessarily requires prior Israeli recognition of the PLO. He noted that this in turn gives special importance to Israeli Minister of State 'Ezer Weizman's statements and hints, which lack clarity, Shaqqur said.

Arafat's adviser, who is currently in Budapest as part of the Palestinian delegation at the meetings between the PLO and Israeli leftists, affirmed: Israel and the PLO are the two major parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Middle East issue.

Shaqqur also announced that a Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi [head of the PLO Political Department] will visit Moscow on 20 June to review the Palestinian situation after the 18th PNC session, which recently concluded its work in Algiers.

The two sides concluded their meeting yesterday by issuing a statement in which the Israeli side called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Charlie Biton, head of the Israeli delegation, embraced Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, at the end of the meeting. [passage omitted]

PLO Official to Discuss Conference With Mubarak

LD150859 Kuwait KUNA in English 0826 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 15 (KUNA) — The Palestinian leadership will send an envoy, close to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, to Cairo to meet with President Husni Mubarak, a senior Egyptian source said Monday quoted by Kuwaiti daily *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*.

The source, which the paper did not identify, affirmed that Cairo participates in preparing for this meeting through an Arab state.

He said that this meeting will be held in secrecy, during which the Palestinian view toward the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East will be reviewed with Mubarak.

Fatah Official on Ties With Syria, Lebanon

JN122003 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
9 Jun 87 p 19

[Interview with Zayd Wahbah, alias Abu Usamah, Fatah Central Committee member and official in charge in Lebanon, by 'Imad Judiyah — place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Judiyah] What is the status of PLO contacts with Damascus? How do you view the future of PLO-Syrian ties?

[Wahbah] There are some obstacles which prevent comprehensive reconciliation between Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and President Hafiz al-Asad. However, they will be overcome. We expect the coming 3 months to bring a positive suprise in this regard.

[Judiyah] Don't you believe that the PNC resolutions in Algiers have greatly contributed toward the restoration of PLO-Syrian relations?

[Wahbah] The PNC resolutions brought us closer to Damascus. We are grateful for the efforts of the PFLP, Algiers, Moscow, and the PDRY to restore the unity of the Palestinian ranks and to normalize PLO-Syrian relations. We have announced that we support this restoration on the basis of mutual respect and the continuation of armed struggle. [passage omitted]

[Judiyah] Many Lebanese leaders demand the abrogation of the Cairo agreement while the PLO says it abides by it.

[Wahbah] Thus far, the legitimate Lebanese authorities have not rejected the Cairo agreement. We consider its cancellation equivalent to the cancellation of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. Therefore, the PLO declared its support of the agreement and expressed readiness to negotiate with the legitimate Lebanese authorities to amend this agreement.

[Judiyah] But the Lebanese Government, through Lebanese officials, has repeatedly rejected any return to the pre-1982 stage.

[Wahbah] The pre-1982 phase has its good as well as bad aspects. We have declared that we will not return to the bad aspects. The Palestinian presence in Lebanon dates back to 1949. The Lebanese Government and UNRWA supervised it before and after the appearance of the Palestinian resistance. The Cairo agreement set rules for this presence. Therefore, we are ready to discuss the removal of the negative aspects of the pre-1982 phase with the legitimate Lebanese authorities. We are also ready to promote the positive aspects in a manner that will not harm Lebanese sovereignty or the dignity of the Lebanese people.

[Wahbah] We regard the security of the camps as an integral part of national Lebanese security. We are opposed to assuming our own security role. However, we have the right to defend ourselves against the fierce onslaught and the serious plot to which we are exposed and which are perpetrated by certain suspect elements within the Amal Movement.

[Judiyah] Does this mean that the camps war has not ended?

[Wahbah] We demand that the Syrian brothers lift the siege on the camps completely. As for a halt to the fighting, we thank them because their efforts and the deployment of their forces at the entrances to the camps have stopped the fighting.

[Judiyah] How do you explain the aim of the repeated Israeli air raids against the Sidon camps which coincided with the camps war?

[Wahbah] When the Amal Movement realized that it no longer was able to provide itself with a political Arab or non-Arab cover in its attacks on the Palestinians or to confront them in their camps, Israel was forced to attack the Palestinians directly. Israeli tools failed in this task.

Therefore, we ask the honorable members of the Amal Movement,and there are many of them, and we appeal to the honorable men in the nationalist and Islamic forces to coordinate with us in order to confront the common Israeli enemy.

Commentary Urges Rejection of Sinyurah Idea

JN121027 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1829 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Station commentary: "With Palestinian Principles There Is No Room for Trial and Error"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people: The unexpected idea presented by Brother Hanna Sinyurah, editor in chief of the Jerusalem *Al-Fajr* paper, has generated various reactions inside our occupied homeland and aroused astonishment and amazement outside the occupied land. It is the same idea which was absolutely and firmly rejected by the PLO. This is because calling for Palestinian participation in the Zionist elections of the Jerusalem municipality under occupation and under the control of force, repression, and terrorism involves grave dangers which no one can accept.

We in the PLO believe that even good intentions should be based on an accurate and comprehensive political vision. Reliance on good intentions without calculating time and place may have grave consequences. Our people are fully aware of this matter through their past militant experiences, through the volume of wide-scale confrontations against the Zionist occupation, and through their full knowledge of the Zionist entity and its continuous failed attempts to confer legitimacy on its spiteful occupation of our Palestinian land. We also know that some of those practicing politics are motivated by purely individual incentives, visions, and interpretations to play a game of trial and error through the ideas, issues, initiatives, or points of view they present.

However, the game of trial and error is absolutely forbidden when it comes to Palestinian constants and principles. These comprise our people's militant constitution while they continue violent, comprehensive battles against the Zionist occupation with the aim of liberating their land, determining their destiny, and establishing an independent state with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Palestine. Perhaps we also know that in the past some voices raised strange allegations claiming that our Palestinian people are tired of the burdens of long, bitter struggle and that ideas, solutions, or initiatives must be presented to ease, even a little, the burdens of this struggle.

These ideas are abnormal, strange and wrong. This is because their owners have given themselves rights they do not possess, viewed matters from wrong angles, and saw things with non-Palestinian eyes. Our Palestinian people, the owners of this great heritage of struggle since the beginning of this century, know their cause is not easy. They know that the Zionist enemy they are resisting is only a bridgehead for an overall military, economic, and cutural conquest gaining momentum from the accumulated despair, frustration, and exhaustion which affect some during the long, hard journey.

Going back to the Zionist elections concerning the Jerusalem municipality, which is headed by Teddy Kollek, with Me'ir Kahane preparing to run for mayor amid Zionist measures of violence, force, control, and hegemony, we wonder: What is the use of a democracy of tanks, machineguns, settler terrorism, martial law, and other forms of coercion which were frequently exposed by *Al-Fajr* and also by Brother Hanna Sinyurah in his stands and fiery articles throughout the long years?

We in the PLO appeal to our kinfolk inside the occupied land and Jerusalem, who valiantly resisted months ago the attacks of settlers. We ask them to quickly bypass these ideas as though they were nonexistent and to continue as usual the unity and cohesion of their heroic struggle against the Zionist occupation and all its objectives and forms. We further ask them not to allow the Zionists who are lying in wait to pass through any gap no matter how small to reaffirm that what the occupation has been unable to achieve through force it will never succeed in achieving through anything else.

Budget Deficit Prompts 'Arafat To Ban Conferences
JN121531 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 10 Jun 87 p 1

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has issued instructions banning the convening of any conferences or meetings of various Palestinian unions.

This decision seems to have been issued in a bid to reduce costs and financial commitments that have caused a deficit in the PLO's budget, which has begun to suffer because of reduced revenues. Informed Palestinian sources have said that revenues are now much less than the funds needed to provide for the expenses of combatants and those of the families of martyrs and detainees, and to support the steadfastness of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Al-Bayan has learned that 'Arafat rejected a request submitted by the secretary general of the Palestinian Teachers' Union to hold a teachers' conference this summer. *Al-Bayan* also learned that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] rejected proposals to hold an expanded symposium on the 20th anniversary of the Israeli aggression against some Arab states, one that would have involved the participation of some Arab and international figures.

Trial of 208 Charged Under Criminal Code Opens

LD150902 Algiers Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Today the state security court in Medea will begin the trial of Mansouri, Meliani, Chabouti, and Abdelkader and their accomplices — a total of 208 people accused of murder, sabotage, organizing criminal groups, giving assistance to criminals, assassination, common theft, and failure to report crimes. The charges are all provided for and sanctioned by the code of criminal law. This trial is expected to last several weeks due to the gravity of the case and the number of charges involved.

Ryuytel, USSR Delegation Continue Visit

Ryuytel Gives News Conference

LD101425 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 10 Jun 87

[Text] Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, has now been in our country for 3 days. A short while ago he met with journalists at the headquarters of the People's National Assembly. He is in Algeria as part of his visit to certain Arab countries, including Libya, Morocco, Egypt, and Syria. Journalist Majid Shir reports:

[Majid Shir] The first point that emerged was Mr Ryuytel's desire to inform the Arab public about the acceleration of economic development and the deepening of democracy in the USSR. The second issue, which also directly concerns us, concerned international security, particularly security in regions of conflict including, of course, the Middle East.

In 1984 the USSR proposed the idea of an international conference on the Middle East, Ryuytel recalled. The Soviet Government, he pointed out, appreciates Algeria's initiatives to unify the Palestinian ranks as evidenced by the recent PNC conference held on Algerian soil. He stated that the Palestinian issue remains at the center of any solution to the Middle East problem. Ryuytel reiterated his nation's stand, which calls for the Zionist armed forces's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and an independent Palestinian state.

As for an international conference on the Middle East, Mr Ryuytel pointed out that it must bring together all the parties involved, including the PLO.

Mr Ryuytel also spoke on the numerous Soviet proposals for definitively eliminating nuclear arsenals. These proposals have not yet been taken up.

Departs 10 Jun

LD110027 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 10 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, departed Algeria yesterday evening [10 June] following a 3-day visit during which he held talks with members of the National People's Assembly.

In a statement before leaving Algeria, Mr Ryuytel said that the Algerian and Soviet parliaments had stressed the importance of consolidating cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technological fields. He added that the two country's views on urgent international issues were identical.

Libyan Official, Delegation Arrive For Talks

LD140150 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Algiers, 13/6 (APS) — The Libyan secretary of planning in charge of economic and oil affairs, Fawzi Chakchouki, arrived Friday here at the head of an important delegation.

Chakchouki told the press at his arrival that his "presence in Algeria falls in the frame of the preparation of meetings of the Algerian-Libyan joint commission and an examination of what has been realized".

Libya's Jallud Arrives on Official Visit 14 Jun

LD142238 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Commander 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, the number-two man in Libya, arrived in Libya this evening on an official visit. He quickly pointed out to the media that meetings between Libyan and Algerian leaders have become a tradition. Commander Jallud cited some general topics of discussion, including the current situation in the Arab world, and, on a purely bilateral level, the strengthening and expansion of cooperation as agreed by President Chadli Benjedid and Colonel Qadhdhafi. The political discussions will begin tomorrow. The prime minister and the leader of the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee welcomed Commander Jallud this evening at Houari Boumedienn Airport.

Mubarak Congratulates Thatcher on Election

NC121350 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following cable to British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher to congratulate her on winning the general elections held in Britain:

Your Excellency Mrs Margaret Thatcher, prime minister of Britain: It pleases me to send to you, on behalf of the Egyptian people and myself, the sincerest heartfelt congratulations for the great victory you scored in the official British elections and your assumption of the prime minister's job for the third consecutive time.

While expressing our sincerest wishes for success in performing your new duties, I hope for more growth, progress, and prosperity in all aspects of our cordial and cooperative relations in the interest of our two friendly peoples, as well as for the prosperity, peace, and security of the entire world on the basis of justice and mutual respect. With my sincerest respect and esteem.

Editorial Scores U.S. Veto of Saudi Missile Deal

JN141709 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 June 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Unjustifiable Resolution"]

[Text] A resolution by the U.S. Congress to veto the Maverick missile sale to Saudi Arabia came as a real surprise even to President Reagan and his aides, who were visibly sorry and angry over the incomprehensible stubbornness of Congress. They viewed it as unjustifiable and a disservice to American interests in the region, coming as it did after an agreement in principle between the United States and Saudi Arabia that the latter support the American plan to protect Gulf shipping and ensure the continued flow of oil to the Gulf [as published] countries.

It seems really strange that the U.S. Congress leaves its resolutions to the Israeli lobby, which has consistently managed to block U.S. arms deals with Arab countries and secure congressional support for all American arms deal with Israel. They secure this support without any discussion of the balance of forces or the balance tipping in favor of this or that party, as happens when any arms deal with the Arabs comes up for consideration.

If President Reagan is determined this time to get around the veto of the U.S. Congress, after holding consultations with his advisers, friends of the United States will view the move as a positive development, albeit of limited effect, unless it culminates in dispensing with the very principle of the Congress exercising a veto over American arms deals with Arab states. Such a triumph might just regain much of the credibility the United States may have had in the region, particularly since U.S. officials are absolutely certain the deal would have met Saudi Arabia's legitimate defense needs and would not have disturbed the military balance in the Gulf. Furthermore it would have indirectly advanced the efforts to cut the Khomeyni regime down to size following the deployment of Chinese missiles on the Iranian coast to threaten commercial shipping, which must be protected in the interest of world trade.

AL-AHRAM on U.S. Congress Stand on Gulf War

NC150510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2222 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA) — In its edition to be published tomorrow, Monday, *Al-Ahram* describes Congressional opposition to U.S. measures for protecting the freedom of maritime trade in the Gulf as an implied call for peace. It adds that this is a good thing and it is clear in the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee's [not further identified] decision urging the U.S. Western allies to participate in Washington's efforts to bring peace to the Gulf.

However, *Al-Ahram* wonders what prompted Congress to oppose the U.S. missile deal with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the same force it opposed overt U.S. participation in protecting the Gulf to avoid its direct involvement in the war. The paper says: U.S. support to Saudi Arabia is necessary to confront the challenges of an expanding war and of a shaking regional stability.

In conclusion, *Al-Ahram* asks: Who would be capable of protecting international merchantile ships and tankers if the direct shelling of them continues under the present difficult conditions of protecting navigation in the Gulf? Answering its question, the paper says: Those who must assume this protection are the ones who have an interest in doing so regardless of whether they are states from inside or outside the region.

Saudi Delegation Arrives for Fair Opening

NC131214 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA) — Riyadh Governor Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend Wednesday's opening of a Saudi fair called Saudi Arabia Between Yesterday and Today, which will last until 6 July.

The prince was met at Cairo Airport by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, as well as by Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of Cairo, and As'ad Abu Al-Nasr, head of the Saudi interests section in Cairo. Dr Wali escorted the Saudi official from the airport to Al-Tahirah palace, where he will be staying. Accompanying the Riyadh governor on his visit are Ibrahim al-'Anqari, Saudi minister of municipal and rural affairs; Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, Saudi ambassador to the United States; Prince Turk ibn 'Abdallah, member of the Riyadh Development Council; Prince Sultan ibn Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; and Prince Turk ibn Sultan, head of the Foreign Information Department at the Information Ministry.

Prince Praises Bilateral Ties

NC131416 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA) — Riyadh Governor Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has said that the opening of the Saudi

fair, "Saudi Arabia, Yesterday and Today," in Cairo, the capital of the Arabs, is of great significance. He noted that the Egyptian people are leaders of all Arab peoples. In recognition of their role and contribution in providing Saudi Arabia with expertise and a work force in various fields, the Egyptian people should see for themselves the accomplishments of the fraternal Saudi people, he said.

In a statement upon his arrival in Cairo, Prince Salman said: I am here to convey the greetings of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques; the Saudi crown prince; government; and people to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government and people.

Prince Salman thanked the Egyptian authorities, particularly Cairo Governorate, for their help and cooperation in making the Saudi fair a success. He expressed hope that this fair would provide the best opportunity to bolster the firm relations between Saudi Arabia and Egypt and between the two fraternal peoples. The governor of Riyadh concluded by noting that the Saudi fair tells the story of development in the Kingdom and characterizes its past, present, and future.

Meets With Mubarak, Comments

NC141658 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Today, President Husni Mubarak received Governor of Riyadh Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the occasion of the opening of the Saudi fair, Saudi Arabia, yesterday and today. Prince Salman handed President Mubarak a message from Saudi monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. President Mubarak then spoke with reporters after the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Mubarak] The bonds linking the Egyptian and Saudi peoples are very strong and benefit all citizens of both countries. They are bonds of fraternity, love, and friendship, with deep historical roots. The current Saudi fair in Egypt, the first of its kind in any Arab state, has important meaning and significance for Egyptians, because we have special feelings of love and friendship for Saudi Arabia. This fair reflects the wishes of the Egyptians for flourishing, strong, and deep relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In light of this significance we can see that all Egyptians are particularly interested in this fair, compared with those held previously.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the situation in the Gulf one of the political topics you discussed in your meeting?

[Mubarak] Prince Salman has already told you about the subjects we discussed. However, the situation in the Gulf is of great importance to us, and it is usually a subject of discussion in our meetings with our brothers the Arabs and non-Arabs. Naturally we support the causes of our brothers in the Gulf, and security in the Gulf affects Egypt's security.

[Reporter] What is Egypt's position toward ongoing efforts to seek a resolution by the UN Security Council on ending the Gulf war?

[Mubarak] Egypt is not waiting for a resolution by the Security Council. Egypt has voiced more than once its belief in the need to end the destructive fighting between Iraq and Iran. I now add that we must stop the bombardment of ships in the Gulf so the problem does not become more complicated and so we do not get dragged into situations we cannot handle.

[Reporter] Your Excellency Mr President, are you satisfied with Egyptian-Arab relations?

[Mubarak] Egyptian-Saudi or Egyptian-Arab?

[Reporter] Egyptian-Arab.

[Mubarak] In our relations with our brothers in the Arab states we cannot ignore our Arabism; Egypt is an Arab country. We are doing our best to maintain good relations with them. Our ties with Jordan, Kuwait, the Gulf countries, Oman, Sudan, and all other Arab countries are good, with the exception of our brothers in Syria and Libya. But we try not to stir up any problems.

[Reporter] What about the PLO?

[Mubarak] The PLO adopted a certain position recently, and we have our dignity. We will not abandon the [Palestinian] issue, but we cannot accept any insult against the Egyptians.

[Reporter] When will relations be normalized?

[Mubarak] Relations between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are normal, genuine, and long-standing. If you are referring to the issue of ambassador, we had dealings for a long time when there were ambassadors, coming and going sometimes even without the ambassador's knowledge. Our links with Saudi Arabia are rooted in history. As for my meeting with brother Prince Salman, I received a message from his majesty the king. We discussed some bilateral issues and the situation in general. We discussed Egyptian-Saudi relations, because they are of interest to all Arabs, whether Egyptian, Saudi, or other.

[Reporter] Your Highness Prince Salman, can you tell us the nature of the message you conveyed to his excellency the president from his majesty the king?

[Salman] It was one of love, fraternity, and loyalty. I cannot add to what his excellency the president said about the love and genuine, historical relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which I cannot describe in just a few words. [end recording]

'High-Ranking' Soviet Delegation Arrives

NC142045 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1958 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA) — A high-ranking Soviet delegation led by Arnold Ryutel, deputy chairman of the Soviet Information Council [title as received] and chairman of the ESSR [Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Cairo tonight for a 2-day official visit as part of a tour of North Africa which has also taken the delegation to Libya, Algeria, and Morocco.

Upn his arrival, Ryutel said that the purpose of the visit is to strengthen contacts with parliamentarians in the Arab states in order to give impetus to peace efforts and increase understanding among the world's peoples.

The delegation leader expressed his satisfaction with current relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, saying that he will meet with Egyptian officials to discuss important issues, particularly the Middle East situation and the Gulf war.

Further Reportage on Reactions to Shootings

Interior Minister Comments

JN121110 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] The Interior Ministry is preparing a new anti-terrorist bill and the number of extremists rounded up according to the law does not exceed 500, says Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr. The minister added that security authorities will not allow any faction or group to tamper with the security and stability of Egypt and those who harbor such intentions will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law. They will have to contend with security services no matter who they are, since no one is above the authority of the law and stability, Gen Badr emphasized.

The minister said police and security apparatuses are working round the clock to find the perpetrators of recent assassination attempts and they will not stop or tremble as "some" think. Terrorism will be met with the full force of the law, which is not to be underestimated, he stressed.

Yesterday the minister attended a meeting of the political club of the NDP, which was also attended by a number of ministers and NDP members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council. He appealed to citizens to come forward with any information which may help apprehend the culprits involved in the recent attempted assassinations, noting the passivity of some citizens during the shooting incidents involving Major General Hasan Abu Basha and Makram Muhammad Ahmad, Al-Hilal Publishing House board chairman.

The interior minister also warned unscrupulous merchants against overcharging, emphasizing that those who seek to undermine the country's political and economic stability will not be tolerated. He added: "We will use the authority of the law on everyone without deviation."

Gen Badr denied rumors that a number of currency dealers and drug traffickers had escaped arrest by fleeing the country. He pointed out that the number of currency dealers and drug traffickers under arrest has reached 500 and should they resume their illegal practices after their release they will be rearrested.

The minister dismissed the rumored existence of a foreign-based group financing the recent assassination attempts, emphasizing Egypt enjoys stable security despite the isolated incidents that occur in every society.

Security Releases 150 Detainees

NC142017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA) — MENA has learned that the security departments have released a number of detainees who had been held in connection with the assassination attempt against former Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha. MENA has also learned that the number of persons released is approximately 150.

Paper Links Shootings to Israel

PM121355 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 1 Jun 87 p 1

[Usamah Karam Report: "Mossad Behind Assassination Attempt Against U.S. Diplomats"]

[Text] A high-ranking security source has revealed that the incident involving U.S. diplomats was no surprise to security services in Egypt since they were in fact monitoring suspicious movements of Mossad agents in Cairo. The U.S. Embassy in particular was informed of the need to armor all its cars. This was actually done; all cars belonging to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo were armored except the one the U.S. diplomats were occupying [when they were fired at].

The source added that there were numerous objectives behind the operation, foremost among them being to widen estrangement between Egypt and the Palestinians so suspicions with regard to the crimes would fall upon some Palestinian factions and Egypt's image would be distorted in the United States. This could then be used to pressure the U.S. Government to reduce its aid to Egypt. This operation also sought to weaken Egypt's position and to place new obstacles in the way of rescheduling Egypt's debts with the Paris Club by spreading a spirit of instability, already exploited by the Jewish-controlled media in the world.

The fourth objective was to multiply steps toward increasing pressure on Egypt with regard to the Tabah issue after the difficulty in rescheduling the debts and the decreasing U.S. aid. At the same time, Israel is offering money and grants for development projects on easy terms in return for overlooking Tabah, but this has been strongly rejected by the political leadership in Egypt.

In brief, this means Israel is trying to tighten its grip on Egypt, seeking more rapprochement with it and more estrangement with the Arabs.

The source pointed out that all the attempts the bogus "Egypt's Revolution" organization carried out sought to achieve the aforesaid objectives and have in fact achieved most of them. But, they will no longer achieve any since the Mossad's attempts in Egypt have been exposed.

Accused Officers Questioned on 'Overthrow' Plot

JN151539 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
14 Jun 87 pp 1, 16

["Exclusive report"]

[Text] The Egyptian Interior Ministry's security services are interrogating a number of officers in the Armed Forces accused of forming an organization to overthrow the government by force at the instigation of 'Abbud al-Zumur and 'Isam al-Qamari, the two accused of Al-Sadat's assassination, and the Jihad organization.

The officers being interrogated are Colonel Sayyid Haybah of the Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Makkawi of the commando forces, Major Muhammad al-Barbari of the mechanized corps, Major Salah al-Sayyid 'Id of the armored corps, Captain Ahmad al-Buhayri and Captain Mustafa 'Awwad of the armored corps, and Captain 'Afifi Jalal 'Afifi, Captain Ibrahim Mahmud Ibrahim, and Captain 'Abd al-'Aziz Salam 'Abd al-'Aziz of the artillery corps. Upon his release, Mahmud Riyad said that during his detention he saw the abovementioned officers being tortured at the Police NCO Academy to force them to confess to forming the organization.

Al-Watan also learned that the Egyptian Ministry of Interior has prepared a well-studied security plan to control the situation throughout Cairo and Al-Jizah in the wake of the latest assassination attempts by terrorist groups, the most recent of which was the attempt to assassinate Makram Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Hilal Publishing House and editor in chief of *Al-Musawwar*. The perpetrators of that attempt have not been apprehended so far although the attempt was carried out in the center of Cairo.

The *Al-Watan* correspondent has learned that the plan provides for intensifying patrols in strategic areas and main streets and along the bridges connecting Cairo's various districts. The Interior Ministry's Special Operations Forces are constantly deployed in strategic areas, while the rapid deployment forces are deployed throughout Cairo and Al-Jizah control the security situation. The police force is carrying out an intensive campaign to find the clue that could lead to the culprits or the organization responsible for the recent assassination attempts.

Commentary on Budapest Meeting, PLO 'Duplicity'

NC141504 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Duplicity of PLO Policy Is Not in the Interest of the Palestinian People"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the meeting in Budapest between a PLO delegation and Israeli leftist figures represents a clear step forward. We deem this meeting, as we did a previous encounter in Bucharest and a meeting between [PLO Chairman] 'Arafat and a delegation of American media representatives, an important opportunity to present to the Israelis clear-cut and specific views on the basic Palestinian positions.

Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Palestinian team at the Budapest talks, noted that these meetings enjoy the support, approval, and credibility of the PNC. If we examine the significance of these Palestinian-Israeli encounters, we can note some important points. The first is that the PLO no longer rejects dealing or talking with any Israeli or Jewish elements, or those sympathetic toward the Jews, so long as these elements appreciate the Palestinian people's right to regain their legitimate rights and express a readiness to reach common ground that could lead to a settlement. The second point is that these meetings have broken the traditional rejectionist line maintained by the founding fathers of the state of Israel, refusing to recognize the Palestinian people. While this development is a mere embryo in the womb of current political life, the facts of international political changes will surely transform these small Israeli groups that recognize the Palestinian people's rights into a strong current with a loud voice in the political arena.

Several years ago, the PNC adopted a binding recommendation about the need to meet and talk with Israelis. The PLO is working seriously to implement this recommendation whenever possible. Therefore, we cannot comprehend the PLO's duplicity regarding the issue of direct talks with the ruling Israeli establishment. The PLO has adopted public positions condemning Egypt for its relationship with Israel. Matters even went so far that the PNC, ending its sessions in Algiers, suspended PLO contacts with Egypt until Cairo terminates all relations with Israel. The Palestinian leadership seems to be deliberately disregarding the fact that Cairo has worked and is still working toward a single objective: regaining the Palestinian people's rights. Peacemaking and ending the Arab-Israeli conflict are nationalist goals worth pursuing. It is noteworthy that the PLO blesses its encounters with Israeli delegations and expresses readiness to suspend all military operations against Israel should the Israeli Government agree to participate in the international peace conference. Arab public opinion has become a victim of Palestinian one-upmanship and unobjective criticism of Egypt as a result of the so-called Camp David episode, although no one has even attempted to examine this treaty and its results in-depth. The Arab public remained prey to uncertainty and doubts until Abu Mazin made a public statement before the world. Asked by the media whether the PLO expects negative reactions from the Arabs or Palestinians to the Budapest meeting with the Israelis, he said: The PLO does not care about the Arab response, because the Arabs have generally, historically rejected any sort of Palestinian encounter with the Jews, wishing to limit such meetings to themselves only. As for the Palestinians, he added, such meetings are approved clearly and specifically by the PNC. We can add nothing to Abu Mazin's statement. We want only for the PLO to reconsider its policy, because such duplicity paralyzes Palestinian decisionmaking and plays havoc with the Palestinian people's rights.

Ghali Blames Israel for Stalling Peace Efforts

LD150847 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 15 (KUNA) — A senior Egyptian official has blamed Israel for an obvious recess in efforts to hold an international conference on Middle East peace.

The division inside the Israeli Government over the projected conference has made parties concerned with the Middle East peace, including the U.S., the Soviet Union and Europe, take a wait-and-see attitude, Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali was quoted Monday as saying.

He told Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Anba'* in an interview he believed Israel would be able to make up its mind on the conference only after general elections which would give weight to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' support for the international parley or to Premier Yitzhak Shamir's rejection.

Responding to a question, Ghali who was interviewed in Cairo, indicated that it was still possible for Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization to attend the peace conference in a joint delegation, despite the PLO's formal insistence to be represented by a separate delegation.

"These formalities which hinder genuine peace efforts must be overlooked," Ghali said, emphasizing that a joint delegation could still ensure Palestinians of representation equal to that of other parties.

Paper Urges Firm Stand Against Israeli Settlers

JN131955 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jun 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Regrettable Confrontations"]

[Text] The repetition of collective attacks by the Israeli settlers against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank cities and refugee camps truly attracts attention. It is feared that this might become a phenomenon which may assume an objectionable character — racism, despite Israel's extreme eagerness to avoid it and its campaigns to dismiss it. The measure here is what happens in similar circumstances in various parts of the world where groups of citizens arm themselves and attack other racial or religious groups, despite apparent opposition from the governments and their intervention with forces to break up the confrontations exactly as Israel does. No matter how limited, such incidents harm regimes because they portray them as unable to protect minorities or some sectors of society, one of their main responsibilities. Moreover, such incidents further strain these regimes because they spread hatred, revenge, and retaliation between the disputing sides whenever losses and victims are sustained among them. These incidents also harm these regimes' general policies and economies because they destroy the elements of security and stability.

We conclude from this that the Israeli Government must confront this phenomenon with the necessary firmness and decisiveness before it gets out of hand, especially since the world still looks upon Israel as an occupying power in the West Bank and as long as the fate of the area has not yet been decided within the framework of the UN resolutions. Allowing Israeli citizens to individually arm themselves to deter any attack to which they may be subjected is understandable within the context of self-defense. However, the appearance of armed collective gangs that attack the Palestinian refugee camps and cities, even if it is to avenge the death or injury of one of their number, must not be allowed to continue because this implies leaving the law in the hands of those who are not entitled to apply it. This would lead to chaos and anarchy. The Israeli Government is called upon to contemplate what is happening and to take deterrent measures against all those trying to spread chaos in the belief they are protected by the law.

AL-AKHBAR Denounces 'Hostage Trade' in Region

NC150620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA) — *Al-Akhbar* warns of the danger of a serious precedent being established. This is something the world community is witnessing for the first time in history; namely, the hostage trade. The paper emphasizes that if the world does not firmly and strongly resist this trade, this will be a sign that the law of the jungle is taking over on the planet earth. One can foresee the emergence of a large international gang working in the hostage trade on behalf of various states as an alternative to engaging in drug traffic.

In its editorial tomorrow, Monday, the paper says some professional gangs have taken advantage of the chaos in Lebanon to detain citizens of Western and, sometimes, Arab states, to use them as a bargaining chip on their own account or on behalf of other suspect quarters.

Al-Akhbar adds: Despite the fact that this is a vile and base action because it exploits persons who have nothing to do with the thoughtless and crazy conflict in the Lebanese arena, a serious development has occurred in this filthy operation, adding to its ugliness and baseness. This is the fact that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has offered to buy some of the hostages to use them in exerting pressure on the states that reject his terrorism and seek to cut him down to size. Following in the footsteps of their ally Al-Qadhdhafi, the rulers of Iran have now come to participate in the hostage trade and have transported the hostages to Iran, where they are threatening to put them on trial.

Al-Akhbar describes the hostage trade as a new form of the slave trade. It says: The hostage trade differs from the slave trade only in the fact that it combines material objectives, represented by the acquisition of a huge ransom, and political objectives, which the traders seek to achieve through pressure, blackmail, and threats to kill the new slaves who have comitted no sin or crime.

In conclusion, *Al-Akhbar* wonders what crime the hostages could be punished for in Iran. It says: Some of the hostages have never set foot in Iran and they have committed no offense against the state of Iran. There is no law anywhere in the world which permits the trial or punishment of these hostages.

'Abd al-Majid Briefs Council on Brioni Meeting

NC141920 Cairo MENA in English 1835 GMT 14 June 87

[Text] Cairo June 14/6/MENA — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said tonight Egypt believes that the Iraq-Iran war endangers the Mediterranean Sea region emphasizing that the Mediterranean Sea Basin's security is

connected with the Middle East regional security and the European security.

Dr. 'Abd al-Majid who was speaking before the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee of the Shura (Consultative) Council stressed the importance of reaching a just and overall settlement of the Palestinian cause, ending the civil war in Lebanon and solving the Cypriot problem.

Dr. 'Abd al-Majid told the Shura Council Foreign Relations Committee that the Mediterranean Sea should be a bastion for cultural, scientific and economic cooperation.

He noted that the Egyptian delegation to the Brioni meeting made a major constribution to formulating an item on the debts of developing countries which called for considering the ability of the developing countries to repay their debts on stating the conditions of debts service.

He added that the Egyptian delegation also introduced several amendments at the Brioni meeting which led to more moderate and balanced formula.

Dr. 'Abd al-Majid said the Syrian foreign minister tried in his general statement at the Brioni meeting to attack Egypt on the pretext that Egypt had been forced to accept the Israeli concept for peace.

But "we had answered him decisively and strongly. [quotations marks as received]

Information Minister Returns from Harare

NC140619 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo early this morning after attending the second conference of nonaligned information ministers in Harare. Al-Sharif said Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe had given him a verbal message for President Husni Mubarak, praising Mubarak's continued efforts in the area and in the activities of the Nonaligned Movement. Mugabe also accepted an invitation to visit Egypt at a date to be arranged later. [passage omitted]

Minister of Manpower Returns from Geneva

NC142031 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA) — Minister of Manpower 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq returned to Cairo this evening from Geneva after a 1-week visit to Switzerland, during which he attanded the ILO conference.

In an arrival statement, the manpower minister noted that Egypt's speech before the conference dealt with the basic principles governing the ILO's role, the issues of peace, and Egypt's position on apartheid. He added that, while in Geneva, he discussed the agreements signed between Egypt and the ILO and noted that some new projects were approved. He also held meetings with the Arab and African labor ministers taking part in the conference and discussed labor issues in their countries.

USSR Parliamentary Delegation Arrives For Talks

LD110037 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 10 Jun 87

[Excerpt] A Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Casablanca this evening on an official visit to Morocco. During its 4-day visit, the Soviet parliamentary delegation will hold talks with members of the House of Representatives' Bureau. These talks will particularly cover the possibility of developing and consolidating relations between the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the House of Representatives.

In a statement to a radio correspondent at Mohamed V International Airport, the head of the Soviet delegation declared that the goal of this visit is to inform Moroccan parliamentary officials about the process currently taking place in the Soviet Union to increase democratic, social, and economic development. He said that the Soviet delegation will hold talks on international issues, discussing world peace and security, and disarmament. The talks will also focus on the crisis in the Middle East and expandingMoroccan-Soviet relations to benefit joint cooperation. [passage omitted]

Representatives Chamber Toured

LD112257 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Excerpts] The Soviet parliamentary delegation currently in our country and headed by Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, held a lengthy working session today with a Chamber of Representatives delegation led by Jalal Essaid, first deputy speaker of the chamber. The delegation includes representatives of the various political bodies represented in parliament.

At the beginning of the session, which was also attended by the Soviet ambassador in Rabat, Jalal Essaid informed the Soviet parliamentary delegation about the Chamber of Representatives and its political bodies. The Soviet chief delegate and some members of his delegation then spoke, giving explanations and clarifications largely concerned with the USSR's economic and political developments. They also clarified the positions adopted by the Soviet Union on a number of current international issues generally related to world peace, including disarmament, arms negotiations in Geneva, the Middle East problem, the rights of the Palestinian people, the question of holding an international conference for promoting a comprehensive regional settlement, the Iran-Iraq war, and the situation in the Mediterranean, which should remain a sea of peace and cooperation. [passage omitted]

The deputies expressed hope for further work to consolidate relations between the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives and the USSR Supreme Soviet, to strengthen bilateral relations, and to enhance cooperation between the two countries in scientific and technical spheres, trade, and other areas. A proposal was made to form a friendship committee between the two countries.

A luncheon in honor of the Soviet delegation was held at the Chamber of Representatives, where speeches were exchanged. On behalf of the house, Jalal Essaid welcomed the Soviet delegation and spoke on the importance of cooperation between the Moroccan Kingdom and the USSR. He noted the reforms and changes introduced in the USSR'S domestic and foreign policies and stated: We are certain that the common ground in our two countries' foreign policies under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are bound to help ensure the success of these talks, which aim at increasing cooperation.

Jalal Essaid also spoke on the causes of the artificial conflict in northwest Africa and on Morocco's efforts to settle this conflict by peaceful means, having itself regained its southern provinces by the same means and according to international law. He then referred to a number of international issues of interest to Morocco such as holding an international peace conference on the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, and the problem of racial dicrimination in South Africa.

In conclusion he praised the development now characterizing Moroccan-Soviet relations to benefit both countries' aspirations in all fields.

Mr Arnold Ryuytel spoke and referred to the purpose of the Soviet parliamentary visit to our country, which is in the context of the traditional friendship between the two countries and the friendship of the two leaders, His Majesty King Hassan II and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He then reviewed some of his country's interests related to domestic issues and world development and peace. He expressed the Soviet side's desire to engage in joint work for stronger ties between the two legislative institutions and cooperation between the two countries to benefit the two peoples' prosperity and progress.

Ryuytel Holds News Conference

LD120436 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation currently visiting our country and headed by Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, has continued its meetings with Moroccan officials. The delegation was received this evening by Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Moulay Zine Zahidi, minister delegate for economic affairs. During both meetings, discussion focused on ways of developing Moroccan-Soviet cooperation in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields, as well as a range of current international issues.

Also this evening, the Soviet parliamentary delegation held a news conference at the Soviet Embassy in Rabat. It was attended by a large number of reporters representing various sectors of the national media. The Soviet delegation's members answered different questions that centered on Moroccan-Soviet relations, Soviet domestic reforms, the Soviet Union's position on the

Middle East question, the situation in the Gulf region, and security in the Mediterranean.

Meeting With Culture Minister

LD130138 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Mr Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, continued talks with Moroccan officials on strengthening bilateral relations.

The delegation met with Minister of Cultural Affairs Mohamed Benaissa and discussed ways to strengthen cultural cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also studied the possibility of creating an institute for higher studies in music to be headquartered in Rabat, a theater complex in Agadir, and a cultural complex in the region of (?the battle of Oued Mekhasene).

Ryuytel on Sahara Issue

LD151408 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Rabat, June 15 (MAP) — "Settling the Sahara problem should be done within the framework of good neighbourly relations to preserve peace in the region", said Arnold Ryuytel, vice-chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidum and chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet [Presidium] who led the delegation of Soviet MPs on a four day visit to Morocco.

The Russian official told the semi-official daily *Le Matin du Sahara* that his country has welcomed the recent meeting of King Hassan II and President Chadli Benjedid and voiced hope to see this meeting usher in a new dynamics of peace in the area.

Ryuytel renewed his country's backing to all peace initiatives in the African north west and answered questions on Soviet contribution to efforts to restore peace in the Middle East and the Gulf.

Delegation Departs 14 Jun

LD142212 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation departed Morocco today after a visit lasting several days. Ryuytel Arnold, head of the delegation and deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, stated that his contacts at the government and parliamentary levels displayed a conformity of views. He noticed, he said, that Moroccan-Soviet relations are concerned with maintaining peace. He pointed out that the two sides have affirmed that settling the Middle East problem must be accomplished through an international peace conference. He noted that both sides are satisfied with the development of their bilateral relations, which promise enormous potential for cooperation.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation was seen off by the first deputy speaker of parliament, Mohamed Djalal Said, and the Soviet ambassador in Rabat.

Ambassador to Ethiopia Reportedly Recalled

JN151054 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jun (SUNA) — The newspaper *Al-Usbu'* said today that Sudan has recalled its ambassador in Addis Ababa. The paper added that the Sudanese authorities yesterday had received all documents affirming the involvement of foreign forces in supporting the southern rebellion and in attacking the Jokau region on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border.

The paper said that these documents will reveal the Jokau operation plan and the parties involved in it.

Official Denies Changes in Armed Forces Command

JN121150 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1049 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jun (SUNA) — Retired Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, minister of state at the Ministry of Defense, has denied reports on changes in the Armed Forces Command. His statement was made to the newspaper *Al-Maydan*, mouthpiece of the Sudanese Communist Party, and appears in today's issue.

Reports last week claimed that General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, Armed Forces commander in chief, had submitted his resignation and was remaining at home to protest both the government's lack of attention to the war in southern Sudan and its holding the Armed Forces Command fully responsible for military activities.

It has also been circulated that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and defense minister, intends to bring about comprehensive changes in the Armed Forces General Command by replacing its current leadership.

French Paper on Political Tensions in Sudan

PM121316 Paris LE MONDE in French 10 Jun 87 p 7

[Jean Gueyras dispatch: "Sudan: Increasing Opposition to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi"]

[Text] Khartoum — The nearly 1-year honeymoon that followed Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's accession to power seems to have ended. True, less than a week after the new Sudanese Government was formed on 15 May 1986, the euphoria accompanying the April elections and the military's removal from the political scene gave way to a certain disenchantment due to the new leaders' clumsiness and prevarications. However, the prestige of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the majority Ummah Party, appeared to be intact.

So everything seemed possible and few people questioned the new prime minister's good faith and determination to make a final break with the vestiges of the Numayri regime. However, now the illusions have vanished. Of course nobody here questions the prime minister's "integrity," "sincerity," or "nationalism," but everyone deplores his "faintheartedness" and his sometimes indecisive, sometimes unduly authoritarian character.

"His popularity is unquestionably at its lowest ebb. This is because he has failed to honor the pledges he made when the government was formed," was the comment by one academic formerly among his most enthusiastic supporters. He especially criticized the prime minister for having done nothing decisive to end the civil war still raging in Sudan, and deplored Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's attitude of "compromise" with the Muslim Brotherhood grouped together within the Islamic National Front (INF). He suddenly realized with consternation that the prime minister is above all a "Muslim politician" and the "leader of a religious sect, that of the Ansars", and that Al-Sadiq is indefinitely postponing abrogation of the shari'ah — contrary to his electoral promise — both out of personal conviction and under pressure from the INF. "If Al-Sadiq were not the Ansars' leader he would certainly be one of the Muslim Brotherhood's leaders," the academic sighed with a hint of rancor.

During the past year Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced at least 12 times the "imminent abrogation" of the shari'ah decreed in September 1983 by former President Numayri, and its replacement by a "modern and more humane" version of Islamic law. However, this task is proving difficult or impossible since the Muslim Brotherhood has never agreed to eliminate the law's most inhumane component; namely, the "hudud," (the corporal punishment envisaged by the Koran) without which "the shari'ah would no longer be the shari'ah."

Consequently, Numayri's Islamic law is "frozen," and several southern criminals who have been sentenced to amputations, floggings, and so forth have waited for 2 years in sinister Kobar Prison for the elusive new legislation's formulation. It now appears, however, that the views of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the INF have drawn closer together, and that slow but sure progress is being made toward a formula that would exempt southern Christians and animists from the shari'ah's severe dictates. One such solution has already been rejected by the southerners as a whole, due to their demand for a nonconfessional state. Any other solution, they claim, would be merely a stopgap measure and would embody the germs of future secession and disputes.

The issue was recently complicated by the announcement of the August election, during the festival of Qurban Bairam [Id al-Adha], of the Ansars' new spiritual leader (imam) to replace Imam al-Hadi 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mahdi. Al-Rahman al-Mahdi, uncle of the current prime minister, was killed on Numayri's orders in March 1970 in his Aba Island stronghold. Some people very recently maintained their belief that Imam al-Hadi was still alive and would return to Umm Durman, thus preventing the appointment of a successor. At the start of the year, the prime minister put an end to the story of the "missing imam" by appointing a committee of inquiry composed of high-ranking Ansar dignitaries. The latter promptly concluded that the imam had indeed been well and truly killed. His remains were disinterred and buried with great pomp and ceremony on 29 April in the Mahdis' tomb at Umm Durman, thus making possible the appointment of a successor.

In mid-April Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi made it clearly understood that a single person — himself, in fact — could combine the posts of prime minister, Ummah leader, and spiritual guide of the Ansars. Perceptive observers immediately drew a parallel with the sit-

uation in Tehran, where Imam Khomeyni holds all the positions of power, and stressed the apparent similarities between Sudanese Sunnism and the Iranian Shi'ite concept of "velayat-e faqih" (the spiritual and temporal guide of the Ummah.) Some even went so far as to claim that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's decision had been suggested to him during his visit to Tehran in late December.

Be that as it may, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's enthronement as the Ansars' imam would, should it materialize, certainly grant him an authority frightening those traditionally supporting the principle of the separation of powers.

Former Minister of Information Bona Malval, a moderate southerner who courageously advocates in his newspaper *Sudan Times* coexistence and understanding between north and south within a nonconfessioal state, immediately expressed concern. He feared that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's move — which would serve as an example to the rival Khatmia sect, whose leaders, members of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), share power with the Ummah — might "result in the emergence of a form of dictatorship as insidious as that of the May regime." He stressed that "a dictatorship backed by the religious sects' institutions within the framework of a 'parliamentary democracy' would be much more dangerous and difficult to combat than those of General Abdud and former President Numayri."

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has so far honored his promise to make Sudan a "democratic and pluralist" state. Political parties, trade unions, and professional organizations enjoy a freedom rare in Africa. However, several signs seem to indicate that this situation will not last indefinitely.

Communist Party Secretary General Ibrahim Nugud speaks in terms of "limited democracy" and responds with the following philosphy to those who accuse him of being "soft" on the government: My party, having emerged 2 years ago from a lengthy clandestine period, will not pull the chestnuts out of the fire for those who want the Communist Party to declare war on the government. "We will confine ourselves," he told us, "to a strict policy of constructive criticism of our government's activities. We are simply saying that the government must honor the commitments it made a year ago. The present 'limited democracy' in Sudan is greatly preferable to a military dictatorship oriented toward the left or embellished with progressive watchwords. The theory that only the Army can resolve underdeveloped countries' problems is entirely unfounded, at least as far as Sudan is concerned."

As for the Muslim Brotherhood, it fears the consequences of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's enthronement by its electoral supporters, who could be attracted by the luster attached to the title of imam. The Brotherhood additionally wryly points our that President Numayri also proclaimed himself "the imam of the Sudanese people." Nevertheless, the Muslim Brotherhood is using this issue to step up their pressure on the prime minister to facilitate their entry into government. The prime minister, moreover, does not seem to have presented any opposition to such an eventuality. Last year he attempted to secure the INF's participation in the Ummah-DUP coalition, and his attempt failed only due to opposition from members of his own party, who repeatedly stated that "the Ummah did not win the election in order to rehabilitate the Muslim Brotherhood."

Indeed, high-level negotiations between the Ummah and the INF have continued throughout the past year. "The political situation is entirely different now," we were told by Ummah Politburo member Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadl al-Mahdi, who was appointed by his cousin, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, to conduct reconciliation talks with the INF. The INF's leader, Hasan al-Turabi, is married to the prime minister's sister. According to Al-Fadl al-Mahdi, "the postelection rancor" has given way to "better understanding" between the rival parties. The man regarded as the prime minister's confidant believes that if the Muslim Brotherhood is "more reasonable" it could fill the "political gap" that disputes within the DUP are creating within the government coalition. However, the prime minister would first have to prepare his own party members for an alliance with the Islamic Front: They are presently opposed to this.

The reluctance of Ummah members is attributable not only to the long rivalry but also to the belief that the Muslim Brotherhood, which provided the strongest backing for the Numayri regime, constitutes a serious threat to Sudan's current democratic experiment. Indeed, it is no secret to anyone here that the INF — which enjoys unlimited funds from Islamic banks with Saudi Arabian links as well as a fully experienced and disciplined organization and cadres — would, once in government, rapidly become the principal partner, to the Ummah's detriment. The latter would thus risk losing a large proportion of its traditional electorate.

"To accept the Muslim Brotherhood's entry into the government would be tantamount to political suicide on our part, and would sound the death knell of democracy in Sudan," we were told by one influential Ummah member. Furthermore, such a decision would also accentuate the Islamic character of the ruling team in Khartoum and complete the emerging split between north and south, thus creating favorable conditions for Sudan's division into two states.

26 Fundamentalists Sentenced for Demonstrating

LD032245 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 3 Jun 87

[Text] In Tunisia 26 fundamentalists, including 3 girls, were sentenced today to terms of imprisonment ranging from 4 to 6 years for taking part in a banned demonstration. Other trials connected with protests that took place in April and May last year are expected.

'Khomeyniite Group' Arrested

LD141701 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] The national security authorities continue to unravel the threads of a Khomeyniite secret organization after discovering its headquarters in one of the capital's suburbs. Some of the group's leaders were arrested and various instruments of violence and other materials used by the organization in its subversive activities were seized.

TAP has learned that the national security authorities recently captured a terrorist gang belonging to that organization which had stolen quarry explosives from a depot in Jabal Bu Qarnayn in the Hammam al-Anf suburb. Members of the gang confessed that they had intended to use these explosives for terrorist acts but, fearing discovery, they had hidden some of them in a ditch on a mountain slope and destroyed some by throwing them into a still water pool.

In the same period, the security organs arrested another gang belonging to the Khomeyniite group. Members confessed that they also had intended to carry out subversive acts. In (Koukh Qarish) in (Dhira Ennoun) in (Ghabat Marzit Hayet) in the Az Zaramidin District, and in the homes of the gang members in Jammal Subdistrict, the authorities discovered unlicensed shotguns, ammunition, repair and maintenance equipment, explosives, and a plastic bag containing a locally-made bomb hidden in a cactus plant buried in the ground. Two radio sets, a magnifying glass, recording and photographic equipment, tapes, and extremist Khomeyniite hostile leaflets were also seized.

TAP has learned that the national security authorities captured various instruments of violence including Molotov cocktails, iron balls, and hooked nails used to puncture car tires in the Khomeyniite gang members' possession. In recent days they had tried to foment riots and anarchy in the capital and Qabis.

Envoy of Saudi King Fahd Arrives for Talks

Received by Prime Minister

LD111730 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Text] At the government palace in the Casbah at noon today, Prime Minister Rachid Sfar received Shaykh 'Ali Musallam, the adviser to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. Shaykh 'Ali Musallam explained that their talks dealt with bilateral relations and matters of joint interest and related to the Arab region as a whole. He confirmed that Saudi-Tunisian relations are strong and meet the desires of supreme combatant President Habib Bourguiba and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The meeting was attended by Taib Shabani, secretary of state to the foreign minister, and the two countries' ambassadors.

President Receives Envoy

LD131251 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba this morning received Shaykh 'Ali Musallam, the envoy of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [Prime Minister] Rachid Sfar; [State Minister] Zine Labedine Ben Ali; [National Educational Minister] Amar Chedli; Taib Shabani, secretary of state to the foreign minister; Tunisian Ambassador to Riyadh Kacem Bousnina; and Saudi Ambassador to Tunis Ibrahim Sa'd Ibrahim were present at the meeting. Following the meeting, Shaykh 'Ali Mussallam stated: I have conveyed to the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, greetings and wishes from King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, who harbors respect and amity toward his excellency and the fraternal Tunisian people while wishing sisterly Tunisia progress and continuous prosperity.

Paris Reports on Communist Party Congress

LD140213 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] In Tunisia, the first legal congress of the Tunisian Communist Party in 25 years is being held. The themes of the first speeches concentrate on attacks against the government, which is accused of undermining individual and public liberties. They also focus on an appeal on behalf of the Islamic militants arrested during the last few months. Karim Marsaoui reports from Tunis:

[Begin Marsaoui recording] The hammer and the sickle floating, portraits of Marx and Lenin dominating the platform, the presence of a strong delegation from the CPSU — this is the decor. The remainder is a good start for the Tunisian Communist Party [PCT] congress. The report of Secretary General Mohamed Harmel first calls for a general amnesty and for the release of the recently arrested Islamic militants. This is not because he agrees with them, as he stated: We are against obscurantism and fatalism, but we are also against the undermining of liberties. The repression against the Islamists could — according to Mr Harmel — lead to the emergence of fanatical and extremist groups as is the case in the Middle East. The report of the PCT secretary general also calls for the formation of a large union of all political forces to prevent the country's movement toward [word indistinct] uncertainty. He also harshly criticized the government's liberal orientation toward the economy. This congress, which will end on Sunday, is a unique event in the history of Tunisia. It is covered by the state-owned radio and television. Observers have not failed to note that Secretary General Mohamed Harmel was present a few days ago at the official ceremony greeting President Bourguiba on the occasion of Tunisia's National Day. [end recording]

SDAR Leader Views Military, Political Situation

PM091411 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 1 Jun 87 p 4

[Interview with "SDAR President" Mohamed Abdelaziz by Fatimah 'Anan in the SDAR; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Anan] Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR, can you explain why you attacked the Moroccan king at the PNC conference, which resulted in his severing relations with the PLO?

[Abdelaziz] We did not attack the Moroccan king at the recent 18th PNC Conference in Algiers. We attended the conference at the PLO's invitation and delivered a speech to express the solidarity of our people, our state, and our organization, Polisario, with the PLO and the Palestinian people in their just struggle to recover their legitimate rights on their national soil. This was not our motive alone but was the intention of all delegations from all over the world, including Egypt; that is, to stress their support for the Palestinian people's just cause.

We did not attack the Moroccan king in our speech and we did not even consider exploiting the PNC to attack the Moroccan king. We also declared that our people — who suffered invasion and 100 years of war with Spain and who are now suffering from occupation, dispossession, and murder — stand by the Palestinian people's struggle despite these circumstances. [passage omitted]

['Anan] I understand that Morocco supported you during the liberation war, for it voted in your favor at the United Nations. The Moroccan foreign minister also defended the Western Sahara's right to self-determination.

[Abdelaziz] That is true. In 1966 Morocco defended the Western Sahara's right to self-determination and a document was issued stressing that the Western Saharan cause concerned the liquidation of colonialism, and that the Saharan people should be enabled to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. In addition, the legitimacy of the Saharan people's struggle was also stressed. [passage omitted]

['Anan] What about the war? Where do you get the arms to continue this savage war?

[Abdelaziz] We have already entered into the war. We entered it 12 years ago against the present invasion, and 3 years before that against Spanish colonialism. Our arms are not advanced and we lack ammunition. However, we attempt to compensate for our backwardness and our shortage both in the quality and quantity of our arms by the effectiveness of the Saharan fighter and his excellence in the field. This is because he is affiliated with the Western Sahara, understands its nature, and is capable of interacting with it. During the war we passed through various stages: The first was the stage of negative defense; this was followed by the offensive stage against the enemy at home; then came the present stage of war. By this I refer to contending with the latest strategy the enemy may employ in his expansionist war, meaning our resisting defensive strips like the Bar-Lev line which was erected alongside the [Suez] canal. We are now resisting the defensive line which caused us so many problems at the beginning, when we were unfamiliar with this kind of wall. But now this line represents a simple barrier to us. Whenever we cross it we carry out successful battles and operations behind it, and step-by-step the enemy has become a prisoner of his own wall, which he erected along 2000 km of our national soil. This line also divides us off in the liberated territories and separates some of our cities, especially those located on the Atlantic Ocean. A 2000 km line obviously requires a large army and huge resources to defend it and, therefore, we are now working toward making the enemy a prisoner of his own scheme. [passage omitted]

['Anan] Your attacks tend to be carried out with minimum possible losses. You also carry out hit-and-run operations. Is this not guerrilla warfare rather than regular war?

[Abdelaziz] The war we are fighting is a mixture of guerrilla and conventional warfare. We carry out a dozen minor operations every day, but at certain times we fight major battles in a particular area of the line. We infiltrate it, carry out the operation, seize booty and prisoners, then withdraw to once again leave the enemy to repair the infiltrated area, and so on.

['Anan] Is it not possible to settle this conflict in international quarters? Is there not hope for a political solution or a peaceful solution?

[Abdelaziz] The problem of the Western Sahara is now being raised in international organizations. For instance, the OAU has made important decisions, including Resolution 104 adopted in Addis Ababa, which stipulates that the problem of the Western Sahara should be solved through direct negotiations between the Polisario and the Moroccan Kingdom. The OAU also recognizes the SDAR and considers it a full member of the organization. The problem is also being presented to the United Nations. [passage omitted]

KUWAIT

PRC Official on Proposal To Rent Oil Tankers

LD130840 Kuwait KUNA in English 0802 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 13 (KUNA) — Deputy Chairman of the Chinese Political Consultative People's Conference Wang Guangying affirmed that the Government of China is studying Kuwait's request for rental of Chinese oil tankers or allowing Kuwaiti oil tankers to raise China's flag.

Wang reaffirmed, in an interview with Kuwait daily *Al-Anba'* held during his short visit to Kuwait last Thursday and published today, his country's stance which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war and for establishing peace between the two warring countries.

The Chinese official described the Gulf war as the longest and fiercest war at the present time.

He denied reports on China's supply of arms to Iran, describing such reports as "untrue."

He added that after more than six years of the Iraq-Iran war it is obvious now who are the parties that supply this war with weapons.

China has renewed last week its neutral stance toward the Gulf conflict and announced that it was making efforts to urge both conflicting parties to stop the war.

The Arab League delegation has visited Beijing recently and met senior Chinese officials to seek cooperation for ending the war.

The Chinese official's visit to Kuwait last week comes within a tour to several Arab Gulf countries, aiming at finding joint trade projects between China and the Arab gulf states.

PRC Stand on Gulf War 'Hostile', 'Contradictory'

JN141733 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
14 Jun 87 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Losing Bet"]

[Text] The PRC's stand on the Gulf war is no longer acceptable or tolerable. The least that can be said is that it is hostile, contradictory, and devoid of credibility. While PRC officials make statements and give assurances that Beijing seeks and asks for an end to the war, we find that the PRC Government is actually moving in the opposite direction. It is aggravating the conflict and placing obstacles to any regional or international efforts designed to contain it and bring it to an early end.

We would like to tell PRC officials openly that if you are always skeptical about the credibility of others and brag of your own firm and sincere policies, let us discuss your boasts objectively. We listen to and publish your denials that you supply weapons to Iran, the aggressor in this war. Meanwhile, we see Chinese missiles deployed on the eastern bank of the Gulf, threatening navigation and the entire region with destruction. We pay close attention to your statements on the need for peace in the world and the Gulf. However, we see that the forces of aggression are raising a din in the region and are threatening its security and stability. Regrettably, they are using Chinese weapons as a dirty tool to accomplish this.

Then, we once again hear the same old tune on which you harp each day, the one which speaks of your belief that the Gulf war must be ended by all means and as quickly as possible. Immediately afterward, you confront the international community's consensus and oppose a draft resolution acceptable to the other UN Security Council permanent members to end this tragic war through the imposition of sanctions against the party that refuses to negotiate and rejects all peace initiatives.

Anyone in his right mind can only explain this conspicuous contradiction between your words and deeds. It is a cheap maneuver to exploit interests with total disregard for peace and the comprehensive destruction that the war will bring about, and without any consideration for the blood that is being wasted by the war, which has been raging for over 7 years.

From this premise, we cannot but classify the PRC as an aggressor country. Iran represents the epitome of enmity toward the Arab Gulf states. This is demonstrated by its fierce war against fraternal Iraq, continued attacks on Gulf oil tankers and the others that ship Arab Gulf oil, and unceasing threats against countries in the region, not to mention its rabid campaign of terrorism against them. The PRC, on the other hand, no matter how much it tries to deceive us through ambivalent statements, is a partner to this war and aggression and is also a partner in undermining world and regional peace.

The bittersweet fact is that this ambivalent, hostile stand comes from the PRC itself. In the not too distant past, the PRC was a friendly country in the Arab political lexicon. Throughout their contemporary history, the Arabs have stood by the PRC and have extended their hands to it in friendship. Those familiar with the activities of the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development are aware that the PRC has derived significant benefit from it. Despite this, the PRC rewarded the Arabs in the end with a show of ingratitude and by returning friendship with hostility. On top of all that, they tried to cover this with deceptive maneuvers and statements that contradict the facts.

We would like to tell PRC officials the following in a strident tone: Hands off the Gulf. If you have no desire to contribute to efforts to end the war peacefully, the least you can do is desist from fanning its flames with weapons. Let the international community pursue its efforts to end the war and do not obstruct its work or resolutions. You will lose much if you do not do this. You will lose the Arabs' friendship. You will also lose your credibility if it is not gone already. In exchange, you will only be disappointed, for you are actually betting on a losing horse.

Trial of January Rioters Opens 14 Jun

LD141103 Kuwait KUNA in English 1005 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 14 (KUNA) — The state security court Sunday opened hearings of a case in which 25 Kuwaitis and one Saudi national are facing charges of rioting, violently resisting security men and disturbing order.

The defendants, ranging in age from 17 to 37, last January "gathered in a public place with the intent of resisting the authorities and disturbing peace and order," the indictment sheet said.

They gathered in front of the residence of Habib Sha'ban Ghadanfari — a wanted criminal who has recently been sentenced to death for crimes against the state — and obstructed Ghadanfari's arrest by attacking the force which was then encircling his house, according to the indictment.

The rioters, who were carrying sticks, stones, heavy objects and fire arms, refused to disperse as ordered then by police, it added. They attacked security men hurling stones at them with one firing a shot which wounded a security man in the leg as he rushed to call reinforcement, the indictment sheet said.

"The accused, verbally abused, and used force and threats against, on-duty public servants and deliberately damaged cars and other equipment owned by the Interior Ministry," the indictment sheet said. A defendant identified as Jawad 'Ali Ibrahim Musa al-'Attar was singled out as the instigator "as he incited these crimes" in a speech he delivered on site, it added.

The security court, presided over by Judge Muhammad 'Abd-al Hay al-Bana'i, decided to hold the hearings in-camera at the request of the prosecution which cited "order and public welfare" reasons.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Receives YAR's Al-'Arashi 12 Jun

EA121642 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] This morning, Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the People's Supreme Council Presidium, received Brother Yahya Husayn al-Arashi, minister of state for union affairs and member of the permanent committee in the northern part of the homeland.

During the meeting, they reviewed the unifying relations between the two parts. They also examined ways of developing them in a manner that serves our peoples' hopes for a peaceful, democratic reunification of the land and people.

Current Arab situations were also discussed, as were ways of uniting positions taken on them by the two parts.

Brother Yahya al-'Arashi was also asked to carry a reply message from Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, to their Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The message pertains to the unifying relations between the two parts.

Al-Bid on Importance of General Party Conference

EA141812 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, has expressed confidence that our party will emerge from the general party conference with its organizational, ideological, and political unity stronger than ever before. Collective leadership and democratic centralism will also become stronger in the life of our people and its leadership for our Yemeni masses.

In an interview for *Al-Thawri*, mouthpiece of our party's central committee, published today, the brother secretary general described the discussion of the draft of the analytical document to be presented to the general conference as a true expression of the levels of consciousness and responsibility attained by our party members and our toiling masses. It is a new confirmation of the soundness of the course taken by the collective leadership in spreading democracy and openness in the life of the party and the people. He stressed that through democracy and democracy alone could we discover shortcomings and errors. In this way, the party's leadership of the masses could be strengthened. We could also end the rightist and opportunist leftist currents and entrench the authority of the workers in our country.

He said openness was one manifestation of democracy entrenched following the victory over the opportunist right. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed the importance of the general party conference. He pointed out that the analytical critical document on the revolutionary experience since the founding of the YSP would be presented to the conference. He said its adoption would inflict total defeat on all the deviationist political, ideological and theoretical theses and all forms of deviation and attempts to reverse the revolution. Its adoption would also secure the party members and the masses against the influences of capitalist and reactionary ideologies.

The brother secretary general touched on the (?criminal) modes of the opportunist rightist deviation advocated by the conspirator 'Ali Nasir and his clique, which he unveiled after expelling Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Ismail and after the extraordinary conference. Al-Bid pointed out one of those modes was the dissolution of the vanguard nature of the party and the blurring of the party as a vanguard for the working class and its allies. In addition, he broadened the social base of the party to include some representatives of the exploitative classes and groups in society, which were opposed to the party and the socialist orientations.

This led to a slackening of efforts to establish the working class roots of the party and to expand its proletarian identity.

The brother secretary general also dealt with all the tasks facing our party and masses in the period following the upcoming

conference. He pointed out that among our important tasks on the internal level was the forming anew of economic awareness and disciplined proletarian personality. Another job is the combating of petit bourgeois consumption, in addition to dereliction of duty and extravagance and all forms of corruption. It must be stressed that all those who violate regulations and laws will be called to account. State, public, and cooperative assets must be protected.

He said: We shall strive to keep our development policy in step with national unity. We shall work for the strengthening and expansion of economic and commercial links with the socialist countries, headed by the friendly USSR. We shall expand our cooperation with CEMA in light of the first meeting of the joint committee with CEMA.

Defense Minister Receives Hungarian Officials

EA142312 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Brother Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense, met in his office today with Comrade (Imre), the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary, and Comrade (Forgabal), the military attache at the Hungarian Embassy in Aden. At the start of the meeting, the brother minister of defense welcomed the charge d'affaires and the military attache. He briefed them on the extensive preparations in our Armed Forces for the convening of the general party conference and the observance of the 20th anniversary of our country's national independence. He also informed them of the other national and internationalist festivals and days which our country will celebrate this year. The minister of defense spoke about the interest of the PDRY's party and government leaders in strengthening and developing the relations of struggle between the two friendly countries in the areas of military construction. He also touched on the issue of ensuring their ability to defend the sovereignty of the two countries and the gains of the Yemeni and Hungarian states in a way that will serve the causes of peace, progress and socialism in the world.

In reply, the two comrades, the charge d'affaires and the military attache, said they were pleased to meet the defense minister. They confirmed the wish and readiness of the Hungarian side to exchange experience and strengthen and develop relations of friendship and cooperation between the armies of the two friendly states. They also expressed admiration for all the activities related to the observance of the national and internationalist days in the Armed Forces.

QATAR

Heir Apparent, Delegation Leave for UK, France

JN130908 Doha QNA in Arabic 0818 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Doha, 13 Jun (QNA) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar's heir apparent and defense minister, left Doha for the United Kingdom today. On Monday, his highness will go on to Paris for an official visit to France at the invitation of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

His highness is accompanied by a senior delegation that includes Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, finance and oil minister; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Colonel 'Abdallah ibn Khalifah Al Thani, assistant deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and 'Abdallah ibn Khalifah al-'Atiyyah, chief of the heir apparent's office.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Al-'Arashi Returns From PDRY With Message

JN121859 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and member of the Standing Committee, returned to Sanaa from Aden at noon today. This followed his visit to the southern part of the homeland. During his stay, he conveyed a message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to Brothers Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general in the southern part of the homeland. The message dealt with a number of matters related to Yemeni affairs in both parts of the homeland and regional and Arab issues of common interest.

In a statement to SABA', Brother al-'Arashi said he is carrying a reply from Al-'Attas and Al-Bid to the brother president.

Soviet Aviation Ministry Official Arrives

JN130641 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Mikhail Timofeyev, Soviet deputy minister of civil aviation, arrived in Sanaa today for a visit to the YAR scheduled to last several days. During his stay, he will hold talks with officials of the General Authority for Civil Aviation and Meteorology and Yemeni Airlines. The discussions will focus on the development and strengthening of bilateral relations in civil aviation.

He was received at the airport by Brother Muhammad al-Haydari, under secretary at the Ministry of Communications and Transport for the transportation sector; Muhammad al-Haymi, chairman of the board of directors of Yemeni Airlines; and the charge d'affaires at the USSR Embassy in Sanaa.

'Arafat Makes Statement, Departs 13 Jun

JN131717 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian

Revolution Forces, left Sanaa this afternoon following a visit of several days to the YAR. During his stay, he met with Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

In a departure statement to SABA', Brother Abu 'Ammar explained that he had a positive meeting with his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The two brothers discussed Palestinian, Arab, and international conditions. They also reviewed the terrorist operations against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. These are being carried out by the Zionist army and by the armed terrorists of the Levinger, Kahane, and Sharon gangs against Palestinian cities, villages, and camps inside the occupied territories. He pointed out that discussion also touched on the continued air and naval raids on Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. The possibility of an Israeli military strike against areas east of Sidon was reviewed as well.

Concluding his statement, Brother Abu 'Ammar noted that his talks with Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih were characterized by a unified view, analysis, and results. They proceeded from the strong fraternal, militant, and revolutionary relationship beween the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

He was seen off by Brother Dayfallah Shumaylah, commander of the Republican Guard and Standing Committee member; Brother Jamal 'Arafat, PLO representative in Sanaa; and a number of Palestinian revolution cadres.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 13 Jun

JN131728 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jun (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad today for a visit expected to last several days. 'Arafat was welcomed by the head and members of the RCC's Liberation Movements Department and by 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Begins Visit 14 Jun

JN150642 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jun (INA) — Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah, the Kuwaiti minister of oil, arrived in Baghdad last night for a visit scheduled to last several days. The Kuwaiti minister will attend today's opening of a joint Arab project for producing basic chemicals used in manufacturing detergents.

President Chairs Meeting of Military Leaders

JN141642 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1626 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jun (INA) — President and Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command and military field commanders that lasted approximately 9 hours.

General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense; Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party regional command; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; and the president's secretary attended the meeting.

Communique No 2,706 Details 11-12 Jun Combat

JN121636 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,706 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 June 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through belief in God, love of the homeland, and adherence to the people's values and aspirations, our Armed Forces have continued their heroic confrontation against the aggressive Zionist despotic clique ruling in Tehran and have daily inflicted further losses on the enemy. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our gigantic Air Force aircraft carried out 30 combat missions against enemy positions, equipment, and assembly points, and inflicted heavy losses on the Khomeyniite criminals. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. A brave force from our valiant formations in the II Army Corps central sector carried out a successful raid on the enemy positions opposite them. In a violent encounter with the enemy, one of our units destroyed enemy positions, killed 15 scoundrels, wounded several others, and forced the remainder to flee after leaving behind their weapons and equipment. A quantity of enemy weapons and equipment was captured. Our soldiers then returned safely to base. In other areas in the same sector, our units destroyed eight enemy infantry positions.

3. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah opened concentrated fire on enemy units opposite them and pounded the enemy's engineering works and personnel, inflicting additional losses. Our units also accomplished the following: the destruction of one shovel [preceding word in English], four bulldozers, one SPG-9 weapon, and four infantry positions and their occupants; the detonation of several ammunition dumps; and the halting of the enemy's engineering work.

4. One of our units in the VII Army Corps sector engaged an enemy formation, killing seven of them and wounding others. One single-barrel machinegun was destroyed and its crew killed, while the enemy's assembly points and equipment sustained other losses.

5. One scoundrel was killed, one vehicle was destroyed, and five enemy personnel were wounded in the I Army Corps northern sector.

6. One enemy raft in the VI Army Corps east of Tigris was destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 June 1987

Communique No 2,707 Issued

JN131650 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,707 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 June 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the will of men who believe in God and who ferociously contend with tyrannical aggressors, the triumphant righteous forces continue their heroic struggle in defending Iraq's pure soil, the Iraqi people's choices, and the achievements of their glorious revolution. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our gigantic Air Force aircraft today carried out 20 combat missions against enemy units in operational areas, and inflicted losses in life, equipment, and installations on the enemy. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Five enemy gunboats attempted to approach the Al-'Amiq Port. Our valiant naval units and the port's valiant force confronted them, forcing them to flee.

3. Due to the intense fire and valiant operations by our formations in the VII Army Corps sector, a number of the Khomeyniite aggressors' sources of fire were silenced and the enemy suffered further losses in life and equipment. The following enemy losses were also confirmed: The destruction of one bulldozer [preced-

ing word in English], the destruction of a number of infantry positions and one observation post, and the detonation of three ammunition dumps.

4. One of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah pounded a group of enemy soldiers and a motorized column. Our units in the same sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: The destruction of one artillery post and the death of all of its occupants, the destruction of two infantry positions and one observation post, and the detonation of three ammunition dumps.

5. One scoundrel was killed and two weapon emplacements and two infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. One infantry position was destroyed and two enemy soldiers were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

7. Five enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

8. The criminal, tyrannical clique shelled the residential areas in Al-'Uzayr with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling resulted in damage to civilian property and houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 June 1987

Communique No 2,708 Issued

JN141639 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,708 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 June 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The triumphant forces from the proud sons of Iraq are continuing their heroic defense of the homeland's goodness and affection by inflicting further losses on our country's enemies, God willing. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our gigantic Air Force aircraft carried out 30 combat missions against enemy units, equipment, and weapon emplacements, inflicting death on the scoundrels and destroying their equipment. Our aircraft returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. Our heroic helicopter gunships carried out 21 combat missions against enemy units. They managed to inflict significant losses in life and equipment on the aggressors, and returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Nine enemy gunboats attempted to approach the loading platform at the Al-'Amiq Port. The port's valiant force immediately confronted them with various weapons, supported by our valiant naval forces. The Khomeyniite scoundrels fled in disappointment. God bless the faithful guards of the Arab Gulf waters.

4. Our units used artillery, tanks, and other weapons to pound the enemy positions opposite them in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. They inflicted further losses on the Khomeyniites, in addition to the following confirmed losses: The killing of one scoundrel, the destruction of three infantry positions and a machinegun emplacement, the destruction of two observation posts, and the disabling of three shovels [preceding word in English].

5. One enemy soldier was killed, one machinegun was destroyed, one ammunition dump was detonated, and a number of enemy positions were set ablaze in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. The detonation of two ammunition dumps and the destruction of four infantry positions in the II Army Corps central sector were achieved.

7. One scoundrel was killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 June 1987

Information Minister Returns From Harare Meeting

JN130630 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0400 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, returned to Baghdad last night after participating in the second conference of the nonaligned states' information ministers, which concluded in Harare yesterday.

The conference issued a final statement affirming the need for a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war based on the principle of justice.

'Satisfaction' Over U.S. Stand on Subpoenas

TA121108 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jun 87 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Foreign Minister have expressed satisfaction with the U.S. State Department stand on the subpoenas issued in the Iran arms affair, as expressed in letters the department has submitted to the Federal Court in Washington.

A senior government source told *Ha'aretz* that from the papers that have reached Jerusalem it transpires that the U.S. State Department recognizes Israel's main argument against the special prosecutor, Lawrence Walsh. According to this argument, the people who worked on behalf of Israel have "functional immunity," regardless of their past or present occupations.

The explanation accepted by the U.S. State Department claims that the material and information in the possession of David Kimche, Al Schwimmer, Ya'aqov Nimrodi, and 'Amiram Nir is privileged because at the time of their involvement in the deal they were handling official material that was not subject to investigation by foreign elements. This stand by the Washington State Department is arousing positive expectations in Jerusalem with regard to the court decision on the subpoenas.

Cabinet Approves Additions to VOA Agreement

TA150646 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 87 p 2

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Text] Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi will be in Washington on Thursday for the signing of the agreement on the planned Voice of America relay station in the 'Arava.

The cabinet yesterday approved a number of additions to the plan, foremost among them being an agreement by the U.S. to provide some $16 million for the 'Arava's development. This payment is to compensate for VOA's exemption from local taxes, which had elicited protests from 'Arava settlers. 'Arava Regional Council head Ilan Oren last week called for the signing ceremony to be postponed because of the tax exemption, which he termed detrimental to the 'Arava.

Ya'aqobi yesterday told reporters that the U.S. does not pay local property taxes for VOA facilities anywhere in the world. He added that the settlers had the right to voice their opinion, but stressed that his ministry — in cooperation with the Finance Ministry — had taken steps to meet the settlers' demands.

Ya'aqobi said the agreement marked the turning of a new page in U.S.-Israeli relations after a difficult period. He stressed the economic benefits of the relay station, which will bring more than $150m. worth of contracts to Israel over the next five years.

The final agreement will be signed at the White House by Ya'aqobi and Charles Z. Wick, director-general of the United States Information Agency.

Government To Answer Egypt's Claims on Tabah

TA140542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] A team of senior jurists will convene in Jerusalem today to prepare Israel's answer to Egypt's claims regarding the ownership of Tabah. Our political correspondent has learned that, in its claims, Egypt is hinting at a suspicion that the historical maps submitted by Israel have been counterfeited. The team includes three experts: Prof (Ily Lauterbrach), John Kimche, and a map expert, all from Britain, as well as the jurists Prof Yehuda Blum, Natan Ben- Ya'aqov, Shabtay Rosenne, and David Kimche.

W. Bank Sources Say Shamir-Husayn Meeting Possible

TA121018 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jun 87 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] West Bank sources close to Jordan believe contacts for a discreet visit to Al-'Aqabah by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to meet with King Husayn are possible. These meeting have the same format as the meetings held (and denied) between King Husayn and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The West Bank sources believe such contacts may be possible after Likud elements indirectly let King Husayn know of their dissatisfaction over the fact that the exchanges of views with Jordan are being conducted with the Labor Party alone, despite the fact that the Likud is the decisive force in Israel. The sources believe that Husayn is wavering and has not yet replied to the messages from Shamir's confidants.

According to these sources, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak may express opposition to this meeting because it could be interpreted as a blow to Peres' attempts to convene an international conference. On the other hand, President al-Asad may guarantee that Syria will remain silent, as it did when King Husayn met with the Labor Party leaders.

In the view of the West Bank sources, the chances for such a meeting have lessened following Hanna Sinyurah's initiative. King Husayn does not want to leave himself open to any claim by Shamir — if the two meet — that the Palestinians are more willing to accomodate Israel on the matter of Jerusalem than is Jordan.

Shamir Previews Africa Trip, Discusses Issues

TA140536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami at the prime minister's residence, and by Arye Golan in studio — live]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, good morning to you.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Ben-'Ami] This evening you are leaving for West Africa. The highlight of this trip is the resumption of diplomatic relations with Togo. First, I would like to ask whether more African countries are expected to resume relations with us, and do you believe that the resumption of relations with Togo has broken African rejection?

[Shamir] Well, we never accepted the severing of relations with African countries in 1973. We ceaselessly continued our efforts to resume relations and renew the Israeli tradition of cooperating with African countries in overcoming the various obstacles on the path of their development. Indeed, since 1980 there has been ongoing, well-planned activity that has borne fruit. In this visit we will broaden these relations by an agreement with Togo, which is joining the countries that have already resumed relations with Africa [as heard].

I will also visit other countries to strengthen and broaden existing relations. I assume that in the future more African countries will join those countries which have already decided to overcome various obstacles and resume their relations with Israel, something that brings them great advantage and helps their economic and social development.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, Zaire, which is the largest and strongest African state, has been dropped from the itinerary of this trip. Some people said Zairian President Mobuto Sese Seko is angry with us.

[Shamir] No, this is not true. We have already held several official state visits in Zaire...

[Ben-'Ami, interrupting] Including a visit by yourself.

[Shamir] Including my visit. This time it did not work out; the dates did not fit. This has nothing to do with our relations with Zaire, which are extremely friendly.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, another question regarding the visit: Some people charged that the delegation leaving with you is too big. I understand that besides the air crew, the security men, and correspondents who are paying for the trip, you are also being accompanied by a group of industrialists.

[Shamir] Yes, that is true. In fact my own entourage is extremely small. I am being accompanied by four people from the Prime Minister's Office and one from the Foreign Ministry. We are also being accompanied by several economists who are to prepare the groundwork for economic relations with African countries that are very interested in them and to broaden them where they already exist. I am bringing these economists with me at the request of these countries. This is the makeup of the delegation.

[Ben-'Ami] Incidentally, there is talk about another country, the name of which is not being made public until they publish the report about our arrival.

[Shamir] Yes, it is possible that I will hold additional meetings in the course of my tour. However, at the request of the heads of these countries we are not publicizing these meetings before they make them public in their own capitals.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, good morning. I have several questions to ask you from the studio.

[Shamir] Good morning to you.

[Golan] Even before your departure to Africa, the UN under secretary general is arriving here. Will he be a welcome guest when he comes to speak with you about the international conference?

[Shamir] Well, the UN under secretary general has been in Israel several times already. They come often to discuss various issues with us. He is obviously entitled to report the opinions and views of the UN secretary general, and we always receive them warmly.

[Golan] However, the answer will be negative if he asks you about...

[Shamir, interrupting] Concerning the issue of an international conference the answer will be negative.

[Golan] Today, the government will discuss the issue of wheat in the Sabattical year [when the fields are supposed to remain fallow]. Mr Prime Minister, you have still not revealed what you think about this issue.

[Shamir] Look, I think the industry and trade minister will come to today's session after meeting with the chief rabbis. We will see what his position is and what he is proposing. I assume no damage will be caused to Israel in any case.

[Golan] Am I to understand that, if there is financial damage in the affair, you will be against the wheat exchange deal?

[Shamir] I do not know if there is any damage involved. Let us see.

[Golan] There is talk about financial damage of $9.5-10 million.

[Shamir] This is according to the media. I do not know all the details. Today the government is to hear for the first time all the details from the industry and trade minister. We will decide according to these details.

[Golan] National Religious Party Minister Yosef Shapira is threatening to leave the government.

[Shamir] This is the first time I've heard this. He told me nothing about it and I do not believe this is realistic.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, Shim'on Peres will take your place in your absence. Are you convinced you will not return to an international conference?

[Shamir] I am completely confident. In these issues I have no doubt that we are fulfilling and will continue to fulfill the regulations that lie at the basis of the national unity government.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres said over the weekend that whoever belongs to the nationalistic camp in fact belongs to the binational camp.

[Shamir] This statement is baseless and untrue. The nationalistic camp is the true nationalistic camp.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, when you return from Africa, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will leave for Europe to continue campaigning for the international conference issue. Is he authorized to do so?

[Shamir] I do not believe that he is authorized to do so. The government has not taken a decision favoring Israeli participation in an international conference, and this means Israel is not participating in an international conference. The foreign minister has no authority to commit Israel in any way to such a conference.

[Golan] He is leaving anyhow. Will you ask him to cancel his visit or not to speak on these issues?

[Shamir] I have not heard from him about his plans. When I hear I will react. However, this is my well-known opinion.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you will meet today with Prof (Ily Lauterbrach), who is helping the Israeli team formulate our claims regarding Tabah. The Egyptians are saying Israel has counterfeited the maps.

[Shamir] This is certainly not true. I have not heard this claim from Egypt. I heard just now over the Voice of Israel that there is a hint to this effect. There is a process of arbitration and Israel has to present its case, and it will do so.

[Ben-'Ami] Perhaps it would have been preferable to end this affair in conciliation, in some kind of compromise between us and Egypt.

[Shamir] You know that all along I was in favor of conciliation. In the framework of the arbitration process, there is still a possibility for conciliation. I assume the sides will try to take this course. The question is whether we can reach an understanding that will meet our needs.

[Golan] Mr Prime Minister, we wish you luck and a successful trip to Africa.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Departs on Africa Tour

TA150420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] The prime minister left last night on a tour of several African countries. Mr Shamir will begin his tour this morning with a visit to Togo, which has resumed diplomatic relations with Israel. Mr Shamir will later proceed to Liberia and Cameroon. Speaking at the airport, the prime minister said that, among other issues, he will raise the problem of the reunification of the families of Ethiopian Jews in his talks. Mr Shamir told reporters that upon his return he will discuss the issue of an international conference with the vice prime minister.

Shamir Prepared To Consider 'Regional Conference'

TA141519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is prepared to consider Israel's participation in a regional peace conference. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that in a meeting with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, Mr Shamir said that he does not believe in an international conference but does believe in direct negotiations. However, he is prepared to contemplate a regional conference that would only be attended by Israel, its neighbors, and representatives of the Palestinians.

The UN under secretary general came to Israel on a mission on behalf of Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to examine the positions of the countries in the region. He emphasized that he did not bring along any specific proposal. He said he would confer with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis.

Peres To Promote Peace Conference on Europe Trip

TA141025 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Jun 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman and New York correspondent Miryam Fuch]

[Excerpt] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres intends — contrary to the position of the prime minister — to visit Britain, Germany and France next week for talks meant to advance the peace process and the idea of the international conference.

Shim'on Peres will meet with Prime Minister Thatcher, Chancellor Kohl, and President Mitterrand. Speaking over the weekend in the Zionist Labor Movement Bureau, Peres explained that he wants to reach the same understanding with France and Britain that has been attained with the United States concerning the international conference. These include the understanding that the international conference will serve as an opening for direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan. Peres is also seeking support for Israel's position: diplomatic relations and Jewish immigration as a condition for Soviet participation in the conference.

Peres attacked the policy of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud, saying that "they started the Lebanon war without national consensus and now they are seeking a consensus without peace. The battle for peace will continue and will reach the people's decision." [passage omitted]

Meets Goulding, Norway's Holst

TA150839 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 87 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has "no government mandate" to discuss the international conference on Middle East peace during his forthcoming visits to Britain, France and West

Germany, Prime Minister Shamir declared yesterday before leaving for West Africa.

Peres, on the other hand, told visiting UN Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding that "the government had not decided either way on the conference" and that he definitely intended to discuss its format with the West European leaders.

The two major party leaders in the government were thus reopening the dispute over Israel's participation in such a conference, which had lain dormant since the government last discussed the issue last month.

It is understood that Goulding was sent to Israel by Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar to sound out possible developments in its position towards the conference.

Peres told the UN emissary yesterday that he would continue "to seek a decision" by the Israeli people about the conference.

Peres also said that the Soviet stand regarding the conference "must be explored." Peres's aides reported that Goulding was under the impression that the Soviets had "recently made their stand on the issue more flexible." [passage omitted]

Earlier yesterday, Peres told visiting Norwegian Defence Minister Johans Jorgen Holst that, in the absence of progress towards peace, the way would be clear for greater Soviet penetration of the area. If the Soviets want to join the process, he said, they must agree to open the gates to Jewish emigration and reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Peres said that one of the ways the West could counterbalance Soviet influence was by supporting an international economic initiative that would ease the economic plight of the poorer Arab states.

Peres assured Holst that he would continue to exploit every opening to advance the peace process and, ultimately, would bring the matter to a decision "by the people." [passage omitted]

Labor Party Holds Heated Argument on Peace Plan

TA141143 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jun 87 p 3

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Excerpt] A heated argument about the Labor Party's position on the question of peace erupted last Thursday between two leading members of the party, 'Ezer Weizman and Shlomo Hilel, when Weizman came out against the clause in the party's platform regarding the security borders. This came on the eve of the widescale information campaign about Shim'on Peres' peace plan, which is scheduled to be launched this coming Saturday.

The dramatic confrontation between the two men took place at a closed session of the Labor Party Bureau that discussed the information campaign. Weizman said that when it comes to peace, the rule on security borders does not apply. The borders are composed of various elements as stipulated in the peace with Egypt, Weizman added

Weizman's remarks implied that King Husayn would not agree to discuss the map of borders suggested at the time by the late Yig'al Allon — the map endorsed by the Labor Party — or the security borders depicted in the party's platform. However, when Weizman asked whether the Jordan River is the security border, the overwhelming response was "yes" and "we have settlements on the Jordan River."

Weizman argued in favor of digressing from the party's platform, saying parties have been known to change their platforms: the Likud ran for elections with platform A and made peace with Egypt according to platform B.

Heckled from the floor about the need to adhere to the platform, Weizman replied: Yahad's joining of the Labor party is a two-way marriage; we accepted you and you accepted us.

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel could not conceal his emotions when he took the podium. Usually, he said, I do not actively participate in the meetings of the party institutions due to my position as Knesset speaker. However, there is a limit to everything. Nobody should be allowed to say that the platform is sheer nonsense.

Weizman: I did not say nonsense, do not put words into my mouth.

Hilel: We ran for elections with this platform and we were given confidence based on it. How can anyone say that the platform is not binding?

The argument between the two men attests to the deep differences within the party: between the doves of whom Weizman has become the main spokesman, and the hawks gathered in the active "mainstream" circle headed by Hilel.

Weizman called on the party to conduct a through and comprehensive debate about its peace plan. According to him, the Likud does not have a peace plan either and, in fact, the entire government does not have and has not even discussed such a plan.

Later, Weizman drew a possible peace map as he sees it on a piece of paper. "Weizman's map" calls for Israel's presence on the Jordan River along with an expansion of the "corridor" — the security corridor first mentioned in the Allon Plan — with the intention of leaving the maximum number of Jewish settlements under Israeli rule. [passage omitted]

Peres Claims Soviets Renege on Understandings

TA141037 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Jun 87 p 1

[Report by Menahem Rahat and Refa'el Mann]

[Excerpt] The Soviets have reneged on some of their understandings with Israel. This was said by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the delegates of the Independent Liberals Conference.

Peres affirmed that "the issue of aliyah [immigration] is falling out of our hands."

Peres said that "there is a sharp Soviet retreat in the Soviet-Israeli dialogue. We must invest ongoing and ceaseless efforts to increase immigration from the Soviet Union."

This was the first time Peres has revealed that Israel has recently received a Soviet "nyet" in the unofficial contacts between the two countries.

Next week Mr Peres will meet with British Prime Minister Thatcher in London. They will continue the discussions on London's help in advancing the idea of an international conference. Peres will come to London as part of a trip to several European countries.

From reports that have arrived in Jerusalem, it transpires that Thatcher asked President Reagan, during their meeting in Venice last week, to increase U.S. activity for advancing the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

AL-NAHAR Criticizes 'Leftists' on PLO Meeting

TA121404 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Jun 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Road to Peace Does Not Pass Through Budapest"]

[Text] The day before yesterday an Israeli "leftist" delegation departed for Hungary to meet and hold discussions with some PLO leaders.

Every time a number of Israeli progressive figures and leftists leave for a European capital to meet with PLO officials an immense hue and cry erupts. In Israel they begin talking about violation of the law that prevents contact with the PLO, while news conferences are held and symposiums and protests are organized. On the Palestinian level, hopes are raised about the possibility of penetrating Israeli ranks as well as achieving peace and Palestinian rights.

Amid this environment, replete with rosy expectations and propaganda "fireworks," the most important question slips from memory: To what degree do these Israeli leftists represent actual Israeli public opinion? The answer to this question is easy and simple. At best they represent no more than 10 percent.

Such meetings have a negative impact because they focus attention on marginal matters unrelated to the core of the problem: the fact that the international conference is the only way to resolve the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The mission of the Israeli left is not in Budapest but among the Israeli people; it is to convince the Israeli Government to consent to the convocation of an international conference. Going to Budapest will only lead to adding shades of deception to Israel's policy of procrastination.

Police To Interrogate Members

TA121841 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] The attorney general today instructed the police to summon for interrogation each member of the leftists delegation that left for Hungary and met with PLO officials in Budapest. Yig'al Markus, head of the police Investigations Division, confirmed to our police affairs correspondent that the investigation will be handed over to the central police district, which was also in charge of interrogating the members of the leftists delegation that met with PLO representatives in Romania last year. Four of the members of that delegation are now facing trial.

Biton Summoned for Questioning

TA141217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Charlie Biton is the only member of the 22-man leftist delegation that conferred with PLO representatives in Budapest who has been summoned for questioning by the police. The delegation returned to Israel this afternoon and was met by a police officer, who served the summons to MK Biton upon landing.

In a subsequent news conference, the members of the delegation said that, with the approval of the PLO Executive Committee chairman, the PLO representatives had announced their recognition of the State of Israel. According to MK Biton, the PLO members also stated that hostile activities should be terminated. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that MK Biton noted that additonal meetings would take place.

Rabin on Political Talks With French Leaders

TA140641 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Paris by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan in studio — live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Dayan] Mr Rabin, I would like to ask you about your meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand. I understand that the issue of our MIA's from the Lebanon war was raised. Did you leave this meeting with more hope regarding the knowledge about the fate of our MIA's?

[Rabin] I cannot say that in the talks, during which the issue of the MIA's was raised, more information was revealed. My goal in raising this issue was to recruit as much activity as possible on the part of more people, because it is our moral obligation to find out what happened to our MIA's and to try and bring them home.

[Dayan] Did Mr Mitterrand promise to try and act on this issue in Syria?

[Rabin] I assume the French will do their best, as they have done in the past, to come up with new information.

[Friedman] I understand you heard from Mitterrand that France regards an international peace conference on the Middle East favorably, as long as it does not have the authority to enforce solutions and as long as it is not a framework of dictate. Does this advance the prospects of such a conference?

[Rabin] If I sum up the opinions I have heard here — I met with the president and the ministers of defense and foreign affairs — I would say France regards the international conference favorably because it does not believe there is any other realistic way to advance the peace process today. I understood the French do not consider the international conference as a framework that can dictate or abrogate agreements achieved between the sides to the conflict. At the same time, however, France does not think such a conference could be held without the sides to the conflict, that is, Israel and the Arab states, wanting to come to the conference. Since to the best of France's knowledge the Israeli Government has not taken a decision in favor of such a conference, it doubts the possibility of convening it.

[Friedman] During your absence Shim'on Peres said the Soviets have reneged on some of their agreements or understandings with Israel, and that the issue of aliyah [immigration] is falling out of our hands. Do you know about this?

[Rabin] No. I do not know what Peres meant when he said this.

[Dayan] Do you think we should increase the efforts to convene an international conference? It seems these efforts have decreased after the recent crisis in Israel.

[Rabin] In my opinion, the first thing that should be done is to reach some kind of agreement in Israel, a thing lacking at present.

[Dayan] Did you sense some dissatisfaction in France concerning the lack of coordination within Israel regarding the international scene?

[Rabin] Among those I spoke with, I will not say who, there are those who doubt Israel's interest in the issue, because Israel's general situation at present, in light of the Iran-Iraq war, the peace with Egypt and the split Arab world...[changes thought] As one person put it: What is Israel lacking at present?

[Dayan] What is Israel lacking?

[Rabin] There is nothing lacking in the present situation, but rather in the general trend. The question is whether we are seeking to advance the peace process in the framework of conditions we can realize. The question is not only the present situation — we should try to see the situation in the long run. [passage omitted]

Minister Meets PRC, Iranian Officials in Geneva

TA141152 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Jun 87 p 4

[Report by Aharon Alpern]

[Text] Geneva — Labor Minister Moshe Qatzav, who heads the Israeli delegation to the ILO's annual convention in Geneva, has had several emotional meetings.

Last Wednesday, Qatzav ran into the Chinese deputy labor minister (who heads his country's delegation) and had the opportunity to exchange a few words and even pose for a photograph with him.

At the end of a speech in the plenum that same day, Qatzav was approached by a member of the Iranian delegation (who knew about Qatzav's Iranian origin) and the two had a talk.

A reception held by Israel's Ambassador in Bern Pinhas Eli'av for the delegations attending the convention was also attended by Torres Gomez, the director of the foreign relations department of the Sandinista labor organizations in Nicaragua.

An Israeli diplomatic source emphatically told me that the meeting with the Chinese official had not been prearranged and was coincidental. The Arab representatives, with the exception of those from Egypt and Kuwait, left the hall during Qatzav's speech.

Likud Signs Agreement Incorporating TAMI

TA150424 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] TAMI [Traditional Movement, Israel] has joined the Likud and, as of today, Aharon Abu Hatzera will serve as a Knesset member on behalf of the Likud. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that several Likud ministers signed the agreement with TAMI yesterday, but the prime minister abstained. The Likud has promised TAMI two slots on its ticket for the next Knesset: the 12th and 46th slots.

Arab Navies To Install Missiles in Submarines

TA150653 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 87 p 2

[Report by the defense correspondent]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Arab navies are believed to be moving towards installing tactical missiles in conventional submarines, which could make the missiles more effective than ground-to-ground missiles fired over the Golan, a senior military source said here yesterday.

The source added that the Arab navies, with the exception of Syria, are beginning to use a combination of Western and Eastern weaponry. Submarines could be equipped with Exocet missiles, for example. Though the warhead would be too small to

cause massive destruction, it could hit a target with pinpoint accuracy.

The source declined to say how much progress the Arabs have made in this direction.

Palestinians Stage Protest March in E. Jerusalem

TA141748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Several hundred Palestinians and Israelis marched through East Jerusalem this afternoon to protest 20 years of Israeli rule over that part of the city, as well as the territories. Participants said this was the first such legal protest in East Jerusalem. At the demonstration was reporter Steve Rodan:

The marchers started from the bus station in East Jerusalem west toward Nabulus Road, then north toward the Al-Haqawati Theater. They held up signs reading "Down With the Occupation" accompanied by drawings of people apparently living under oppression. Dozens of police as well as Border Patrol police and the Army kept the march orderly and there was little tension throughout the protest. [passage omitted]

During the march it slowly dawned on both the participants as well as observers that something unprecedented was happening. Both Israelis and Palestinians said this was the first time that police had issued a permit for Palestinians to demonstrate in East Jerusalem against Israeli rule. In the past, police allowed demonstrations concerning such issues as family reunification, apparently seen by Israeli authorities as a humane not political issue. Despite the publicity before the demonstration the marchers and the organizers stressed that the protest had nothing to do with the recent announcement by *Al-Fajr* Editor Hanna Sinyurah to run for the Jerusalem city council.

Two SLA Soldiers Killed in Clash with 'Terrorists'

TA131619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Two South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were killed and 12 others were wounded in three clashes between the SLA and terrorists today. All the wounded were transferred to Israel for treatment. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the terrorists shelled an SLA position near the village of Yatar on the border of the security zone this morning. The soldiers manning the position returned the fire, which originated outside the security zone.

At approximately 1300, an SLA truck encountered a terrorist ambush near an SLA position. Several RPG's fired by the terrorists hit the truck, killing two SLA soldiers and wounding nine. The SLA soldiers returned fire and drove the terrorist squad away. At 1515 mortar fire was directed at the same SLA position, wounding three of the soldiers manning it.

Jordan Reportedly Deports PLO Office Head

TA121234 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] Travelers from Amman have reported that the Jordanian authorities deported Zuhayr Ibrahim al-Munasirah, head of the PLO office in Amman, to Iraq 2 weeks ago after releasing him from a 10-month imprisonment. Mahmud Id'is, recently expelled by the Israeli authorities, and Yusuf Abu 'Afifa are still jailed in Jordanian prisons.

Further Reports on Talks With Syrian Officials

Final Session Held

JN112035 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and members of the Syrian Arab delegation at 1800 today. Jordan's other representative at the meeting was Minister of Interior Raja'i al-Dajani.

The Syrian Arab side, led by Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and the Jordanian side, headed by Zayd al-Rifa'i, then continued discussion at a final session at 1830. The talks were attended by members of the Syrian Arab and Jordanian delegations.

The most important issues discussed at this meeting were expanding trade and finance. The discussions also dealt with industrial coordination and defining areas in which integration between the two fraternal countries' industries can be enhanced. Cooperation in the agricultural, supply, educational, cultural, and tourism fields was also covered.

During the meeting, positive aspects achieved by cooperation were emphasized. The potential for expanding cooperation between the two fraternal states was also stressed.

Al-Shar' Says Talks 'Positive'

JN121849 Doha QNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Amman, 12 Jun (QNA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that the talks which Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, who is now visiting Jordan, held with Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i touched on ways to build and reinforce Arab solidarity. In a statement to QNA, Al-Shar' asserted that the talks were positive, constructive, and dealt with various bilateral issues

Answering a question on the current situation in the Gulf, Al-Shar' said that his country is concerned by developments in the area, including the presence of foreign fleets.

Faruq al-Shar' took part in the Syrian-Jordanian talks held over the last 2 days as part of the two countries' joint higher committee cochaired by 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Zayd al-Rifa'i.

Al-Kasm, Delegation Depart

JN131023 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and his accompanying delegation left Amman for home today after a 4-day official visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. Al-Kasm also held talks with Prime Minister Zayid al-Rifa'i and a number of senior officials with regard to reinforcing existing fraternal bilateral relations, particularly economic and trade cooperation. The talks also dealt with enhancing the activities of joint Jordanian-Syrian companies, as well as promoting bilateral relations to achieve the objective outlined by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Dr al-Kasm's discussions in Amman also touched on developments in the Arab world.

Dr al-Kasm was accorded an official sendoff at Amman airport, ledby the prime minister and ministers. Also present at the sendoff were the deputy prime minister, the doyen of the Arab diplomatic corps in Amman, the chief of staff, the Amman governor, the director of public security, the Jordanian and Syrian ambassadors in Damascus and Amman, and a number of civilian and military officials.

The Syrian and Jordanian national anthems were played. Al-Rifa'i and Al-Kasm then reviewed an honor guard.

Dr al-Kasm returned to Damascus at noon today.

Government Agrees To Receive PLO Delegation

JN141116 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 13 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Watan* has learned from informed political sources in Amman that three PLO Executive Committee members residing in Jordan held talks with Jordanian officials over the last 2 weeks. The three succeeded in obtaining the Jordanian authorities' agreement to receive a PLO delegation. The PLO officials will arrive in Amman this week to hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on developments pertaining to the current international and Arab situation.

Political sources told *Al-Watan* that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, will arrive in Amman during the next 2 days for this purpose.

A meeting between King Husayn and [PLO Executive Committee member] Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya had been scheduled for last week. However, it was postponed due to King Husayn's previous engagements at that time.

Protocol on Cooperation Signed With FRG

JN120746 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Jun 87 p 16

[Text] Amman (PETRA) — Minister of Planning Dr Tahir Kan'an has met with Dr Willie Eihman [name as published], head of the Department of Asia, Europe, and the Mideast in the FRG's Ministry of Economic Cooperation. Eihman is leading a German delegation on a visit to Jordan. The two officials discussed bilateral economic and technical cooperation for 1987-88. They also looked into the prospects for future cooperation in agriculture, industry, energy, and water, in addition to the role of the FRG in supporting development projects in occupied Arab territories. The FRG ambassador in Amman attended the talks.

At the conclusion of their talks yesterday, the Jordanian and German sides signed a technical and financial cooperation protocol. According to this protocol, the FRG Government will extend DM70 million worth of development loans plus DM32

million in technical assistance in the areas of agriculture, industry, energy, health, water, and vocational training. It will also make available 32 training scholarships for 1987. The two sides also signed a protocol on technical and German capital assistance for 1987-88.

The protocol was signed for the Jordanian Government by Dr Ziyad Fariz, secretary general of the Planning Ministry, and for the FRG Government by Dr Willie Eihman. The signing ceremony was attended by the FRG ambassador in Amman and a number of ministry officials.

Complaints Submitted Over Voter Registration
JN140916 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — Saturday, June 13, was the last day in a week-long period given by the Ministry of Interior to the public to contest Voter Lists or submit complaints about matters related to last month's process of registration of voters for parliamentary elections in the Kingdom.

Minister of Interior Raj'i al-Dajani said committees in charge of reviewing complaints about registration of voters had dealt with all issues referred to them by the public in this matter.

He said all matters were discussed in the light of the Election Law and regulations without any discrimination.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Ahmad al-'Aqayilah said a special committee was to review on Sunday complaints that had been submitted to the provinical committees in various regions of the Kingdom. About 48,000 complaints were submitted to the Amman committee during the past week, according to Ministry of Interior sources.

The sources said that committee's decisons on complaints by the members of the public were not final and could still be contested in court between June 17 and June 22.

Mr. al-Dajani said in his statement Saturday that arrangements had been made with Ministry of Justice for matters related to public complaints and to be tackled by Jordanian courts.

In Al-Mafarq Governorate it was reported that the local committees had received 5,259 complaints. The total number of voters registered in the Governorate was put at 41,333.

In Jarash the local committee in charge of reviewing lists has cancelled 1,409 names from the registers out of a total of 19,000 registered voters.

In 'Ajlun it was reported that complaints were made about the registration of 5,094 people.

On May 24, Mr. al-Dajani announced that plans were going ahead for issuing special cards for all eligible voters who registered their names at the 700 registration centres in the Kingdom earlier in the month.

Nearly 912,000 people had registered as voters for the elections.

Army Chief Returns From Visit to UK 14 Jun
JN141845 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Staff General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, returned to Amman this evening following an official visit to the United Kingdom which lasted several days. During this visit, the commander in chief met with state and military officials to discuss aspects of joint cooperation and ways to promote bilateral relations.

He was welcomed at the airport by Lieutenant General Fathi abu Talib, chief of staff, assistants to the chief of staff, the Armed Forces inspector general, and the Jordanian Air Force commander.

AL-SHIRA' Cited on U.S. Hostage Transfer to Iran

JN131034 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1000 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] The Lebanese weekly *Al-Shira'*, which was the first to ignite the Irangate affair by exposing U.S. arms shipments to Iran via Israel, today confirms that many of the U.S. hostages kidnapped in Lebanon have been transferred to Iran where a powerful organization that supports Ayatollah Montazeri, Ayatollah Khomeyni's designated successor, is calling for their trial.

Al-Shira' adds that interrogation of the U.S. hostages will take place under the supervision of Iranian minister of intelligence, Mohammad Reyshahri.

The magazine reports that Montazeri opposes a special committee that wants to exchange the hostages for U.S. arms. The committee comprises Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i; Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Ahmad Khomeyni, son of Ayatollah Khomeyni; Mohsen Rezai'e, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps; and Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

The *Al-Shira'* editor in chief asserts that the hostages' Lebanese kidnappers cannot make a decision on the matter under any circumstances and that the key to the solution of the hostage issue is in the hands of Iran, which wants funds and arms in return for the release of the hostages.

Says U.S.-Iran Contacts 'Underway'

NC131647 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] *Al-Shira'* magazine, which has close links with Hizballah, reports that a number of foreign hostages kidnapped in Lebanon have been moved to Iran, where they are being detained. It adds that contacts are underway between Washington and Tehran on this issue.

The magazine does not name the hostages moved to Iran or indicate when this operation was carried out. It says the source of its information is very close to the office of Ayatollah Hoseyn Montazeri. *Al-Shira'* cites the same source as saying these hostages have been interrogated by the organizations of Mohammad Reyshahri, the official in charge of intelligence, and that Montazeri's supporters are demanding that they be tried in Iran.

AL-ITTIHAD Quotes UK 'Sources'

JN130725 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0627 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Jun (WAM) — Today's *Al-Ittihad* quotes informed British sources in Lebanon as saying that British clergyman Terry Waite was moved twice from Beirut to Tehran during the past few weeks as part of the intensified contacts between the Anglican Church and Tehran on the fate of Waite and the British hostages held for months in Lebanon. The sources, which are close to the Waite family, added that contacts between the archbishop of the Anglican Church and Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsangjani have achieved positive steps on the way to releasing Waite. However, Rafsanjani halted these contacts before reaching a final agreement without giving any reasons.

Iranian Embassy Denies Report

NC141616 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1555 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Beirut today denied that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite or any of the eight U.S. hostages kidnapped in Lebanon are being held by the Iranian Government. A spokesman for the embassy's press section has said that none of the hostages is in Tehran and that Iran has no connection with the hostages. The spokesman, who declined to give his name, added: We also deny that Terry Waite has been transferred to Tehran.

In its edition yesterday, the *Al-Shira'* magazine reported that a number of hostages have been transported to Tehran to stand trial there. The magazine added that certain Iranian officials want to try the hostages, while others want to swap them for U.S. arms. *Al-Shira'* cites Ayatollah Montazeri, the chosen successor of Imam Khomeyni, as saying that he wants to bring the hostages to trial. However, the magazine adds, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani notes that resolution of the issue of the hostages is possible by exchanging them for U.S. arms. *Al-Shira'* noted that Rafsanjani is also asking for the release of Iranian funds frozen in U.S. banks in exchange for the release of the hostages.

UK Paper: Waite Release Hinges on U.S.-Iran 'Deal'

LD140718 London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English
14 June 87, p 1

["'Irangate Link' Prevents Release of Terry Waite" by Patrick Bishop in Beirut]

[Text] Western diplomats in Beirut now believe there is little prospect of Mr. Terry Waite's release from captivity in the near future.

Mr Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, has fallen victim to a wide-spread belief in Lebanon that he was acting as an agent of the United States rather than the Church of England when he arrived here 22 weeks ago.

He now seems doomed to remain a prisoner until Washington is prepared to forge a deal with Tehran over hostages. Such a move is widely regarded as a political impossibility in the aftermath of the Irangate scandal. After a series of interviews with Moslem militia officials and pro-Iranian sources in West Beirut last week a clearer picture has emerged of the circumstances of Mr Waite's disappearance on January 20.

They claim that the abductors of Thomas Sutherland and Mr Terry Anderson, the two Americans whom Mr Waite was principally interested in freeing, at first accepted his assurances that he was acting solely as a man of the Church and was unconnected with any arms-for-hostages deal. Later, however, the kidnappers, members of a pro-Iranian Shi'ite group calling itself Islamic

Jihad, changed their minds after details of an alleged relationship between Mr Waite and the American Government were leaked to them. Finally, on order from Tehran, they kidnapped him, when it was decided that further nagotiations with him were fruitless.

These are the broad findings of an inquiry held by the Progressive Socialist Party, the Druze militia who were guarding Mr Waite until he dismissed them a few hours before he disappeared.

Mr Jihad Zuhayni, the PSP official in charge of the investigation, said last week, "I believe that they (the kidnappers) believed that he was on a peaceful mission but then there was a leakage of information that came to the hostages. They knew something that only Terry Waite knew and we didn't. It was about Irangate."

During the course of the inquiry Mr Zuhayri questioned Dr 'Adnan Muruwah, the Shi'ite doctor who acted as contact between Mr Waite and the kidnappers and who has never spoken publicly about the episode.

According to Mr Muruwah's account given to the PSP, much of the conversation concerned the 17 pro-Iranian Arabs who were being held in Kuwait on charges of carrying out bomb attacks in 1983. The prisoners include a cousin of one of the leading members of the kidnap gang. Mr Zuhayri said: "When Terry Waite was asked about thepeople in Kuwait he said he had a messenger there. He was asked who he was and he said that he could not say. Then they asked him if it was 'Adnan Kashuqji (the Saudi Arabian arms dealer). He replied that he did not deal with weaponry."

According to Mr Zuhayri Mr Waite's stock with the kidnappers fell when the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister announced that there would be no negotiations over the prisoners. "That finished Waite," he said. "They didn't believe him. They thought he was bluffing."

Mr Hasan Sabra, who has close links with the Khomeyni regime in Iran and edits the Beirut magazine *Al-Shira'* which broke the Irangate story, said that ultimately Iran ordered the kidnapping.

The PSP now say they were misled by Mr Waite as to the true purpose of his mission.

"We asked him what he was doing here and he said he was here just to visit people," Mr Zuhayri said. "We asked him many times to leave. He should have left on Saturday (two days before his disappearance)."

Western diplomats have some sympathy with the PSP's confusion over Mr Waite's behaviour. His negotiations were conducted with elaborate secrecy and the British Embassy in Beirut were given only the barest details of the nature of his mission.

Mr Waite was clearly worried about the damage that might have been done to his position in the Middle East by the disclosure of his meetings with Colonel Oliver North, the central figure in the Irangate scandal. "He was worried all the time that he would be kidnapped," Mr Zuhayri said.

The belief that Mr Waite was acting for the Americans is now firmly held by pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon. Mr Sabra said last week; "It is evident that Terry Waites was working for the Americans and not the Anglican Church. The Americans and the Iranians know the fate of Terry Waite and why he was arrested.

"Terry Waite came here to continue what (Robert) McFarlane (former American national security adviser) started. He came to deal instead of McFarlane because the scandal had broken and he could not come. The United States could not continue to deal so they sent Terry Waite instead."

Mr Sabra's view which is also shared by Western diplomats is that the fate of Mr Waite and the other foreign hostages now rests with Iran. According to *Al-Shira'* Ayatollah Khomeyni has set up a top level committee, aimed at freeing captives in Lebanon in return for the US delivering arms paid by the Shah.

— Our diplomatic correspondent writes: A spokesman at Lambeth Palace commented yesterday: "Mr Waite's meeting with Col North last year were to arrange his transport between Cyprus and Beirut in an American helicopter and he was not involved in any arms dealings.

"We know nothing of his alleged contact with a messenger in Kuwait. The archbishop is still waiting for further news as to where Terry Waite is being held but a common factor in all the reports we have received is that he is still alive."

— Terry Waite was transferred to Iran on two occasions for talks with Iranian officials, according to the newspaper *Al-Ittihad* of Abu Dhabi.

It said Waite had been close to freedom but contacts with him were broken off. It did not say whether Waite was still in Iran, or whether he had been taken back to Lebanon.

Fadlallah: U.S. Plotting to Attack Missile Bases

LD131101 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Beirut, June 13, IRNA — Al-'Allamah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in his Friday prayers sermons here talked about plots of world oppressors against the Islamic Revolution.

Addressing worshippers at Beirut's Imam Reza (A.S.) Mosque, he said that the objective of these plots is to suppress Islam and to this end the enemies of Islam have vainly deployed different tactics ranging from political, economic and propaganda measures.

On the recently concluded Venice summit of the top seven industrialized countries, he said that these leaders headed by the U.S. had gathered to discuss shipping in the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile they are plotting to attack Iranian missile bases so as to mislead world public opinion towards an imaginary threat from the Islamic Republic of Iran, instead of the real danger, which is Israel.

Fadlallah reiterated that the Lebanese Muslims have no other alternative but to continue armed struggle against the Zionist regime. Giving the enemy any respite will encourage him to expand scope of crimes against Muslims, he added.

Further in the sermons he advised Lebanese Muslims to avoid internecine wars saying such unwarranted engagements will serve the enemy's purpose. He also described the assassination of the Lebanese prime minister Rashid Karami as a political crime.

Nationalist Parties, Amal Members Discuss Front

NC121842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] The nationalist parties and Amal Movement held a meeting in the office of Eng 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, at 1720 today. 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas and Mustafa Khowwaf represented the Ba'th Party Organization in addition to Qansuh while Muhammad Baydun and Haytham Jum'ah attended for the Amal Movement. The PSP was represented by Narwan Hamadah, Akram Shuyayyib, and Riyad Ra'd; the Communist Party by Karim Muruwwah and George Batal; and the Nasirite Popular Organization by 'Umar Harb and Hasan Shalha.

The meeting was convened to discuss a draft political program and corresponding bylaws for the establishment of a national front, which is to be submitted either today or tomorrow to the leaders who are presently in Damascus.

Amal Sets Conditions for Unity

NC130709 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Commenting on the ongoing contacts among the nationalist parties and forces to achieve a joint working paper, an Amal Movement source stated that, before any joint plans are reached, the Amal Movement wants the Lebanese Communist Party and the PSP to clearly declare their political stands on a number of issues that have been a cause of dispute recently.

The source said Amal's conditions are as follows:

1. The PSP must officially declare that the Batir Front is open to the resistance fighters, who are waging the battle of liberation.

2. The Communist Party must officially announce that the Amal Movement is not responsible for the assassination of Husayn Muruwah and Hasan Hamdan, something which the Communist Party leaders have already stated in their inner circle meetings.

3. The PSP must declare a return to its previous position of demanding the abrogation of the Cairo Agreement.

4. A clear stand toward the Lebanese Forces must be adopted and the regime's stand must be denounced.

The source concluded by saying the Amal Movement, in asserting its strong desire to do everything that would unite the nationalist ranks, views these conditions as the guarantee required for a successful unity.

Qansuh Comments on Differences

NC141356 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] After 3 days of meetings in Beirut, the representatives of the nationalist and progressive parties and the Amal Movement have still failed to realize a political and organizational program for their planned national front. However, the representatives approved some of the program's clauses during a meeting they held at the house of Eng 'Asim Qansuh [regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon] yesterday evening. They also sent former Minister Marwan Hamadah and 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas to Damascus last night to convey to the party and Amal leaders there a list of the program's still unresolved issues.

'Asim Qansuh said today the remaining issues can be summed up as follows: the Palestinian question, the stand on the annulment of the Cairo Agreement, the position on the Army and the Army's future role, the nature of the relationship with the regime, the country's future political phase, plus the management of the country and the resolution of the citizens' problems.

Qansuh said: We are trying to create a political working paper, but we have not yet reached a final agreement. We will inform the leaders who are now in Damascus of what we have achieved thus far, as well as what we have failed to achieve because of the continued differences among the parties.

Qansuh stated that party differences are natural, adding: We are discussing a political and organizational program that deals with the whole situation in Lebanon, including the assassination of Prime Minister Karami, the attitude toward the Army, relations with Syria and the Palestinians, and many other matters. It is inevitable that there should be diverse views on these matters.

Birri on Unity Efforts

NC142010 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction and Amal Movement leader, arrived in Zgharta at 1700 today. He was received immediately by former President Sulayman Franjiyah. At the end of the meeting, Minister Birri commented.

[Begin recording] [Birri] We came to Zgharta to convey our condolences on the anniversary of the 13 June [1978] tragedy [when Tony Franjiyah and family members were assassinated]. We maintain that 13 June was the beginning, and that the tragedy that befell our brothers in Tripoli and our kinfolk in the north with the assassination of Prime Minister Karami complements the 13 June incident. Lebanon's unity, survival, sovereignty, Arabism, and presence on the contact line with the Israeli enemy have always been the target. Zgharta, Tripoli, and the north in general have always constituted the base and true

backbone of the resistance in southern Lebanon. The goal, therefore, was to partition Lebanon, and our efforts must not be to avenge the assassination of Prime Minister Karami, but to complete the mission for the sake of Lebanon's survival through a real, unified action to establish a bloc or front for Lebanon's unity. We must put aside all other issues until we achieve this objective. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Do you anticipate an expanded Islamic meeting in Damascus in the middle of this week, as scheduled?

[Birri] I believe it will take place either on Tuesday or Wednesday.

[Reporter] As minister of justice and as you are following up the investigations into the assassination of martyr Prime Minister Rashid Karami, do you expect this inquiry to produce decisive results, or will it be added to the file of unsolved official issues?

[Birri] Since the first day, and with all candor, I have said and repeat that those who carried out the 13 June crime are the ones who carried out the 1 June crime [Karami assassination]. I claimed, and I repeat it, that the Lebanese Forces carried out the crime through agents in the Army. The Army must defend itself, and the president of the Republic must also defend the establishments. If not, he himself must have participated in one way or another. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Are you going to Damascus tomorrow?

[Birri] God willing. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Birri] The situation is difficult and complex. I cannot offer an optimistic outlook; regrettably, the situation is so complex that I am not optimistic.

[Reporter] Do you envisage military solutions in the near future?

[Birri] I do not believe so. Although the warfare is Israel's fault, I believe [words indistinct] Prime Minister Karami. It is the right of the nationalist forces to defend themselves when need be.

[Reporter] Do you think a political solution would produce results?

[Birri] I believe the ongoing, diligent action could produce results. I also believe the course of unity will triumph, God willing. [end recording]

Judicial Investigator Cited on Karami Inquiry

NC121956 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Commenting on Lebanese television this evening on the investigations [into Karami's assassination], Judge 'Uwaydat said: It is important that we conduct a thorough investigation that reaches irrefutable conclusions and attempts to eliminate every vague point. The mission is not easy; rather, it is one of the most difficult tasks which we are doing our utmost to fulfill. Judge 'Uwaydat affirmed that no obstacles have been placed in his way and that he has not faced any difficulties that could hamper his mission. He said: All facilities, documents, and records have been placed at my disposal. Undoubtedly everyone wants the whole truth to be revealed. I hope the investigation will continue as planned, and that all phases of the inquiry will be coordinated.

'Uwaydat reiterated his call that the results of the investigation not be anticipated and that haphazard accusations not be levelled, affirming that the truth will be uncovered and known to everyone.

AL-KHALIJ Reports on Assassins

NC141628 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] The UAE newspaper *Al-Khalij* reports today that certain senior officers in the Lebanese Air Force assassinated Rashid Karami, in coordination with Israel. The paper cites its correspondent in Damascus as saying he obtained this information from sources close to the official committee investigating the assassination. The paper adds that those involved in the crime include Colonel Samir Harb, second in command of the Lebanese Air Force; Colonel George Shahwan, official in charge of Lebanese Air Force security; and Intelligence Major Ghassan Tuma.

Norwegian Defense Minister Meets 'Usayran, 'Awn

NC121823 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst has met with Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran and Army Commander General Michel 'Awn. The conferees discussed the current developments in Lebanon and the role of Norwey's UNIFIL contingent.

The defense minister thanked his Norwegian counterpart for the Norwegian contingent's and UNIFIL Commander Gustav Haegglund's courageous stands. During the meetings, 'Usayran said that the U.S. Government and people are determined to pursue a policy of total support for Israel, stressing that, as a superpower working to lead the world, the United States should establish a balance among the various peoples so it may lead on merit.

Resistance Group Captures Position in South

NC131154 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] There has been a significant development in Islamic resistance operations. Our correspondent reported at noon today that resistance men, using rockets and machineguns, have been attacking three enemy posts at Tallat al-Huqban, Yatar, and Al-Khazzan since 1320. Heavy fighting is still in progress and columns of smoke can be seen rising from the three positions.

Agent Lahd militiamen are shelling the villages of Kafra and Haris.

In another development, the National Resistance Front issued a statement today saying that one of its groups, operating inside the border strip, shelled a position jointly manned by the Israeli occupation forces and their agents in the village of Yarin at dawn today. A rocket fell on the post, leaving one person wounded and a vehicle damaged. As it was returning from the occupied strip, the group was ambushed by agents along the (Shihin al-Jabhah) road. During the ensuing 10-minute clash, in which rockets and machineguns were used, two agents were killed and one of the resistance men was wounded. The injured man was taken to the liberated areas.

The agents' radio admitted the operation. It said an armed group clashed with members of its militia who had staged an ambush, and that two militiamen were killed.

Our correspondent in Haris has just informed us that as a result of the attack the Islamic resistance has been carrying out in the south, the group has managed to enter the position on Al-Khazzan hill and occupy it. Israeli enemy helicopters are trying to drop forces on the town of Haris. We have also been told that the resistance has sustained three casualties.

Israelis Strafe Villages

NC131529 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports from the areas of confrontation with the Zionist enemy in the south, enemy helicopters have been raking Kafra, Yatar, and adjacent areas since 1620. Ground defenses are confronting the helicopters.

Since 1600, the occupation forces and Agent Lahd militiamen in the Yatar hills, Al-Huqban, and Jabal Humayd have been pounding the towns of Kafra and al-Siddiqin. Enemy helicopters flew intense sorties in the area at 1550 to evacuate the dead and wounded from the site, the scene of a fierce battle between members of the Islamic Resistance and enemy and agent personnel. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance issued the following statement at 1700 today: To honor the blood of innocent martyrs, to escalate the struggle until the land is liberated, and to fulfill our conviction that the rifle of the resistance remains the only answer and that the convoys of martyrs will bring victory, forces of the Islamic Resistance-Martyr Al-Haj Samir Mabsut Jawad group launched a surprise attack at 1300 today against a joint enemy and agent patrol. The patrol consisted of two jeeps, two APC's, and an Israeli intelligence vehicle, all manned by over 50 personnel along the Haris-Sribbin road. Our strugglers completely destroyed the vehicles and killed or injured the personnel. Enemy helicopters intervened, and our strugglers confronted them, forcing them away. The strugglers returned safely to base. The enemy artillery bombarded the adjacent villages of Haris, Sribbin, Kafra, and Yatar. Islamic Resistance artillery is returning the fire to silence the source.

Attack UNIFIL Posts

NC131534 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Nepalese and Irish UNIFIL positions near the towns of Kafra, Yatar, and the triangle of [name indistinct] came under bursts of machinegun fire at 1415 today from the Zionist occupation forces and Agent Lahd militias. UNIFIL sources report that a mechanized company of the Nepalese and Irish contingents proceeded toward the town of Haris at 1430, accompanied by three ambulances to evacuate the injured. Other sources noted that the indiscriminate bombardment and machinegun fire continued until the evening.

Enemy and agent positions on the Al-Huqban Hill, which overlooks Kafra and Yatar, opened fire at 0900 on a Nepalese position on the approach to Kafra. The UNIFIL personnel manning the checkpoint returned the fire for the first time, shelling the Zionist position with 81-mm mortar fire. Timor Goksel, official spokesman of UNIFIL in the south, affirmed to our correspondent that the Nepalese contingent soldiers returned flat trajectory fire.

Iranian Ministers Arrive in Damascus 14 Jun
JN150623 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Dr Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, Iranian minister of commerce and head of the Iranian delegation to the joint Syrian Arab-Iranian Committee, Mohammad Javad Iravani, minister of economy and finance, and other Iranian officials accompanying them arrived in Damascus last night. The Iranian delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, Qahtan al-Suyufi, minister of finance, and Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs.

Prime Minister Al-Kasm Returns From Jordan
JN131158 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus from Amman at noon today after a 4-day official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. On hand to see off Dr al-Kasm at Amman airport were Prime Minister al-Rifa'i, the deputy prime minister, cabinet members, and other senior officials. After Dr al-Kasm shook hands with the senior officials, he proceeded to the dais and the Syrian and Jordanian national anthems were played. The prime minister reviewed an honor guard and received a salute from its members.

During his visit to Jordan, Dr al-Kasm met with His Majesty King Husayn. He held talks with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and other officials on current Arab developments and increased coordination and cooperation between the sisterly countries. Accompanying the prime minister on the visit were Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Minister of Transport Yusuf Ahmad.

Rajjuh, Delegation Return From Harare Meeting
JN141907 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Damascus — Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh returned to Damascus from the Zimbabean capital Harare this evening after leading the Syrian delegation to the second conference of the nonaligned states' information ministers. Returning with the minister were the members of his accompanying delegation, including Adib Ghanam, the minister's assistant; Dr Sabir Falhut, director general of the Syrian News Agency; 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, director of the Foreign Ministry Information Department; and Dr 'Adil Za'bub, director of the minister's office. The minister and his delegation were received at Damascus International Airport by directors of the information departments and senior Information Ministry officials.

The nonaligned states' information ministers conference concluded work on 12 June. A final statement was announced in which Syria's call for the convening of an international conference under UN auspices was adopted. The purpose of this conference would be to distinguish between terrorism as a criminal action, which is condemned on humanitarian and moral grounds, and terrorism as a sacred struggle of peoples who seek to liberate their lands and regain their rights and sovereignty.

AL-BA'TH Warns Against Meeting With Israelis
JN140800 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 14 Jun 87

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, the *Al-Ba'th* newspaper deals with the danger of concessions being made by some in direct or indirect meetings with the Zionist enemy. The editorial affirms that a settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict cannot be achieved the way some in our Arab homeland think. This means that it is impossible, and even fatal, to believe that Israel might accept a solution merely to recognize any Arab rights as long as it retains the overall advantage. More precisely, this means a solution which leaves a weak side and a strong side in the equation of conflict. Years of conflict have proven that Israel cannot recognize Arab rights unless it feels that the Arabs are its equal in terms of power. Likewise, it is impossible for the U.S. Administration to recognize Arab rights unless there is a firm, decisive stand on its anti-Arab policy. A comment yesterday by the Soviet mass media gave a very precise description of U.S.-Israeli relations. It said verbatim: Israel is a mere U.S. aircraft carrier. This statement affirms without question that Israel is the United States and vice versa. Therefore, he who hopes that the United States will remain neutral in any solution is undoubtedly very mistaken. The United States is working to turn the region into one of its satellites. It views Israel as the guarantor by force.

In conclusion, *Al-Ba'th* says: If the Arabs want to change this reality and image, then they must be as powerful as their principal enemy, Israel. This can be done by adopting the Syrian Arab decision regarding the need to establish a strategic balance. Only then will there be opportunity to establish a just, durable peace in the region. If the situation remains as it is, those meeting with the enemy here and there will be issuing their own death sentences.

New Soviet Armored Division Deployed in Paktia

LD121113 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1050 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Islamabad, June 12 (*Tanjug*) — The Afghanistan insurgents' information service AAP claims that a new 15,000-troop Soviet armoured division was deployed in Afghanistan late May. It is not clear whether the division was brought in to relieve part of the "limited military contingent" or as reinforcements.

According to estimates so far, about 120,000 Soviet troops are in Afghanistan at this time.

Invoking diplomatic circles in Islamabad, the AAP agency reports that the forces were immediately transferred to the eastern Paktia Province.

Allegedly, the newly arrived division took part in the May offensive against insurgents in Paktia. It was earlier reported that the offensive was crushed after six days and that 45 Soviet troops were killed.

Some military analysts link the report on the new division in Afghanistan to the government and Soviet troops' announced "decisive tactics" to combat insurgents in the east of the country. The "decisive tactics" aim to "clean up" the border region with Pakistan and close insurgent paths to camps in Pakistan.

USSR Education Minister Arrives in Kabul 12 Jun

Met by Mohtat, Qayyumi

LD121748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] USSR Minister of Education Sergey Shcherbakov arrived in Kabul this morning at the head of a delegation on an official, friendly visit at the invitation of the DRA Ministry of Training and Education.

'Abdol Hamid Mohtat, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; 'Abdul Samad Qayyumi, minister of training and education; a number of employees of that ministry; and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the USSR to the DRA, welcomed the Soviet minister of education and his accompanying delegation at Kabul International Airport.

The USSR Education Minister is to visit some schools and nurseries in the city during his stay in Kabul. He will present educational material and [words indistinct] to the schools as part of the Soviet grants-in-aid to the DRA.

Meets With Keshtmand

LD132358 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met this afternoon with Comrade Sergey Shcherbakov, the Soviet education minister, who is in Kabul at the head of a delegation on a friendly working visit.

Present at this meeting for the DRA were Comrade 'Abdol Hamid Mohtat, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and 'Abdul Samad Qayyumi, minister of training and education. The Soviets were represented by Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the USSR to the DRA; [name indistinct], minister counsellor of the Soviet Embassy to the DRA; and Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy to the DRA; and members of the visiting delegation.

During the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, views were exchanged on the results of the implementation of the DRA's national reconciliation policy and the expansion of cooperation between the DRA and the USSR in training and education.

According to another report, Comrade Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo member and PDPA Central Committee secretary, met with USSR Education Minister Sergey Shcherbakov and his delegation in his office at the party Central Committee headquarters this morning.

The meeting was also attended by Comrade Haydar Masud, PDPA Central Committee secretary, 'Abdul Samad Qayyumi, minister of education, and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the USSR to the DRA.

Topics of mutual interest, cooperation in training and education between the two countries, and Soviet assistance in education were discussed. [passage omitted]

Nur, Hatef Preside Over Burial of Crash Victims

LD140649 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Kabul, June 13, *Bakhtar* — The corpses of the martyrs of the crashing of an Afghan passenger plane AN-26 in the airspace of Shah Juy District of Zabol Province which was shot by extremists with an American-make Stinger missile were buried at martyrs hill amid waves of sorrow and grief today.

Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of National Front and president of the Supreme Commission of National Reconciliation, General Mohammed Rafi, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of defence, Negahban, minister of civil aviation of the DRA, other high-ranking party and state officials, workers, students and relatives of the martyrs had attended the funeral ceremony.

Speaking at the funeral ceremony, Mawlawi Taj Mohammed, a clergyman, strongly denounced the bestial act of the extremists from the viewpoint of Islam and described their crimes as unforgivable.

Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of National Front said that the imperialist countries headed by the U.S.A.

have equipped the enemies of Afghanistan with the most sophisticated weapons of Stinger missiles.

The shooting of the passenger plane and its crash in Zabol Province, the victims of which were buried just now, is another testimony of the inhuman and barbaric acts of imperialism, reaction and its hirelings, said Abdorrahim Hatef at the funeral ceremony.

A mother amid her sorrow and grief said to a *Bakhtar* reporter that the Afghans have become fed up with bloodshed. She asked that the voice of the Afghan women and mothers should be conveyed to the United States and other countries not to help the enemies of the national reconciliation. The Afghans, she added, want peace and strongly condemn those who bring war and bloodshed in the Afghan land.

Army General Notes 'Fresh' PRC Intrusion

HK140352 Hong Kong AFP in English
0351 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] New Delhi, June 13 (AFP) — An Indian Army general spoke of a fresh Chinese intrusion into Indian territory in the disputed northeastern Frontier State of Arunachal Pradesh, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Saturday.

Three meetings between top officials of both countries' border forces were held recently in the Sumdorong Chu Valley to deescalate border tensions following the alleged intrusion, PTI quoted General I.S. Cheema as saying in the Arunachal Pradesh state capital, Itanagar. PTI did not say when the intrusion took place. India has accused Chinese troops of intruding into the valley in June 1986.

Gen Cheema was quoted as saying in remarks Thursday that the talks to deescalate the tensions were "fruitful."

The official spokesman for the Indian Defence Ministry here had no immediate comment on the report.

Meanwhile, China is building roads along the frontier with India following reports of border clashes which both countries have denied, PTI quoted authoritative sources as saying in Itanagar. Thousands of Chinese labourers were seen constructing border roads from observation points in India, the unnamed sources were quoted as saying.

China also had a large concentration of forces in Tsondzong, about 60 kilometres (36 miles) from the line of actual control in Tibet, PTI quoted the sources as saying. Tsondzong is reportedly the divisional headquarters of Chinese forces.

Recent reports have spoken of border clashes and a massive build-up of troops by both sides following a war of words over their longstanding border dispute. But both countries have discounted such reports.

Gandhi Says Chinese Border Situation 'Not Good'

BK140721 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has asserted that the money paid by the Bofors was only to terminate the arrangements with middlemen. In an interview to a Hindi daily, Mr Gandhi said the report from the Swedish Government supported his argument. He said the arrangement possibly made in 1977 was terminated at our instance. The government is looking into the entire issue to find out how it all happened and to ensure that it does not happen again. Mr Gandhi said it is perhaps for the first time that a parliamentary committee is being set up to look into a defense deal.

About Sri Lanka, the prime minister said India wants a lasting solution to the ethnic issue on the island and it has no intention to pressurize any neighbor.

Admitting that the situation on India's border with China is not good, Mr Gandhi said it [as heard] does not fear any clash.

Regarding Pakistan, Mr Gandhi felt it may still be some distance away from the nuclear bomb. But the matter cannot be dismissed lightly.

Violence in Punjab, Delhi, Meerut Continues

Barnala Assails 'Police Solution'

BK121602 Hong Kong AFP in English
1555 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Chandigarh, India, June 12 (AFP) — Punjab's dismissed Sikh chief minister, Surjit Singh Barnala, said Friday the imposition of federal rule on the state a month ago had seen the number of Sikh separatist-related killings there double.

Sikh militants have killed at least 129 people while security forces have shot dead 80 separatists since the Punjab legislative assembly was dissolved on May 11, Mr Barnala told a press conference here.

The former chief minister, head of the Sikh Akali Dal Party, said 41 people had been killed in Punjab in the last 10 days, meaning that the scale of violence had doubled since New Delhi ordered direct rule.

He blamed New Delhi's policy of seeking a "police solution" to the Sikh militants' campaign for an independent Sikh homeland in the northern Indian state rather than the security forces themselves. "A police solution was being attempted to a political problem," Mr Barnala said.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sacked Mr Barnala's Akali Dal administration saying it had failed to control the violence. Punjab police chief Julio Ribeiro has since been given a free hand to restore order.

Officials here in the state capital could give death figures only from May 12 to May 31. They said 40 civilians and 25 "terrorists" had been killed during this period. [passage omitted]

6 Killed in Faridkot 12 Jun

BK131015 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] In Punjab six persons, including three terrorists and one CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier], were killed in separate incidents since last evening. According to the state police chief, Mr J.F. Ribeiro, three terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police near Moga in Faridkot District early this morning. Some arms and ammunition were also recovered from them.

In Amritsar District a CRPF jawan was shot dead and three injured when terrorists fired at a patrolling party near Manavala under Jandiala police station. In another incident, one person was shot dead by terrorists in a village in Korali police station [area]

in Rupar District. Mr Reibeiro said the people of the village chased the culprits and caught one of them and handed him over to the police.

Stabbing, Bombing in Meerut

BK131648 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] A stabbing case and a bomb explosion were reported from Meerut today. A police spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent that one person died in the stabbing in the Lisari Gate area. He said 110 persons have been arrested in connection with yesterday's house search by an unruly mob in Ahmednagar locality. [as heard]

Meanwhile, relief and rehabilitation work has been stepped up in the affected areas.

Terrorists Killed; Arms Recovered

BK131711 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] In Punjab, 3 terrorists were killed and 20 suspected terrorists were arrested in the past 24 hours. Huge quantity of arms and ammunition has also been recovered.

In Faridkot, three scooter-borne terrorists started firing when they were signaled to stop by the naka [patrol] party. Police sources said that the naka party returned the fire in self-defense in which the three terrorists were killed. They have not yet been identified. One foreign-made submachine gun, one revolver, and a gun with some ammunition were recovered from the terrorists.

The Faridkot police have seized a truck used by terrorists for ambushing a Central Reserve Police Force party near Moga 3 days back. The deputy inspector general of police, Ferozepur Range, told newsmen at Moga this evening that 7 foreign-made machine guns, 50 magazines, and over 1,000 live cartridges were stacked in the truck. This is one of the largest seizures of foreign-made arms in Punjab.

Red Alert in Delhi

BK140601 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0530 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Eleven people were killed and 21 received gunshot wounds when terrorists struck at four places in South Delhi late last night. Police authorities say terrorists attacked a house in Greater Kailash-1 during a birthday party. After lobbing a grenade, which failed to explode, the terrorists opened fire indiscriminately with Sten guns. Terrorists also shot and killed people in similar incidents in Alakhnanda market, Gadhi village, and the Tuklakhabad extension.

A police spokesman said that it appears there were two groups of terrorists, each composed of two or three men who used cars. The injured have been admitted to a hospital. The condition of at least five of them is said to be critical.

The police immediately sounded a red alert throughout the capital. Delhi's borders have been sealed and roadblocks have been set up at various places. Patrols at airports, railway stations, and other sensitive areas have been intensified. According to a police spokesman, people have been banned from meeting and seeing off passengers at both international and domestic airports. The police have appealed to the people for help in apprehending the terrorists.

Police and paramilitary forces have been put on alert in Punjab following the terrorist attack in Delhi. Mr Ribeiro, the state police chief, said that the police have been asked to intensify their patrols and to launch special checking procedures. He appealed to the people to extend maximum cooperation in these checks.

In Punjab, terrorists killed four people in Amritsar District last night. The dead included the district vice president of the Akali Dal-Longowal, Mr Harjeet Singh, his two brothers, and a relative. In two other incidents in Amritsar city, terrorists shot and seriously wounded a state table tennis player, Inderjit Singh, and a local Congress-I leader, Dishan Lal. Two members of the Presidium of the United Akali Dal, Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi and Gurdev Singh Badal, have been arrested by the Punjab police after they delivered objectionable speeches.

8 More Killed in Amritsar

BK140654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Excerpts] The police and paramilitary forces in Delhi and Punjab have been put on a full alert following the killing of 11 persons by terrorists in the capital last night. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, reviewed the law and order situation with the lieutenant governor [of Delhi], the home secretary, and the commissioner of police this morning. It has been decided to tighten up the security system in the capital. [passage omitted]

In Punjab, eight more persons have been killed by terrorists in Amritsar district taking the death toll in terrorist violence in the district since last night to 12. The eight victims, which include Harjinder Singh and seven members of his family, were gunned down in a house in (Udhwuk) village under Mehta police station. According to a police spokesman the crime came to light this morning when the villagers reported the matter to the police. The additional director general of police, Mr K.P. S. Gill, and other officials have rushed to the spot. As already reported the district vice president of the Akali Dal-Longowal, Mr Harjeet Singh, his two brothers, and a relative were shot dead in the district last night.

Sikh Group Claims Responsibility

BK141426 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] New Delhi, June 14 (AFP) — A newly-formed Sikh separatist group claimed responsibility for the massacre late Saturday of 12 Hindus in the Indian capital, a senior police official said Sunday. The group, which calls itself "the Bhindranwale Tigers," is named after Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the

Sikh fundamentalist preacher who died in a June 1984 Army assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Assistant Police Commissioner S.K. Jain told *Agence France-Presse* that the Tigers had claimed responsibility in a note left inside a car that two Sikh killers used during a terror drive here Saturday night. "Until the killings of innocent Sikhs in fake encounters in Punjab are stopped, innocent people will be killed in Delhi," Mr. Jain quoted the note as saying.

Sikh militants have charged police in the northern state of Punjab, where they are campaigning for an independent Sikh homeland, with killing innocent members of their community in staged gun-battles. Nearly 30 Sikhs have died in so-called "encounters" with security forces since Punjab came under the direct rule from New Delhi on May 11.

Mr. Jain said the note claiming responsibility had been signed by a Lieutnant General Swaranjit Singh of the Bhindranwale Tigers. Sikh militants usually give themselves military designations. The Tigers came into the spotlight in Punjab in May when they announced their formation. The group is headed by Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, one of the most wanted Sikh militants in Punjab who carries a prize of 100,000 rupees (8,000 dollars) for his capture dead or alive.

Saturday's massacre here is the first to be claimed by the group, observers said.

Parties Condemn Delhi Killings

BK141306 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Various political parties and social organizations have condemned last night's killings in the capital. The Akali Dal-Longwal press secretary, Bakshi Jagdev Singh, said this has brought disgrace to the [Sikh] community and the country. The BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party] said that killings have shaken the confidence of the people. The Lok Dal-Ajit Singh group general secretary, Mr S.P. Malaviya, appealed to the people not to get panicky or excited, but help maintain peace and harmony. The Delhi State CPI-M, expressing shock and anguish over the senseless killings, urged the administration and the police to step up vigilance and tighten security. The All-India Hindu Mahasabha secretary, Mr M.L. Goyal, has demanded full protection to the citizens and compensation to the victims. Others who have condemned the killings include the All-India Sikh Conference general secretary, Mr Gurcharan Singh, Babbar, and the president of the Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachpal Singh.

The Delhi BJP has called for a bundh [strike] in the capital tomorrow in protest against the shooting incident. The central services like hospitals, transport, water, and electricity have been exempted from the bundh call.

Strike in Effect in New Delhi

BK150652 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] In Delhi, most shops and business establishments are closed today in response to a bundh [strike] call to protest against the killing of innocent persons by terrorists on Saturday [13 June] night. The busy industrial areas of west Delhi are, however, working normally. Banks are open and attendance in government offices is normal. Buses, taxis, and autorickshaws are plying on the roads. In most areas in New Delhi, Monday is a weekly off day and shops are closed. The call for the bundh was given by the Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Essential services like hospitals, transport, water and electricity are exempted from the bundh.

Fiji Justice Minister Meets Natwar Singh 13 Jun

BK131644 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Jai Ram Reddy, justice minister in the government of Dr Bavadra, deposed prime minister of Fiji, had a meeting with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi today. Mr Reddy is on his way back home from London where he had gone with Dr Bavadra. He informed Mr Natwar Singh about the current situation in Fiji and also about the discussions held by them in London.

Mr Natwar Singh reaffirmed India's support for democratic forces in Fiji. He said India stands for the Constitution of 1970 and for the maintenance of communal harmony in Fiji. The secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Gokhale, was also present at the meeting.

Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees Continue To Arrive

BK150349 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] The exodus of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka is continuing. About 100 people arrived at a coastal village of Kottapatnam of Pudukkottai District of Tamil Nadu on Saturday [13 June]. The district collector said the refugees will be taken to Rameswaram for registration and rehabilitation.

IRGC Spokesman Announces Alert Against U.S.

LD151308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] In an interview with the Central News Unit, Mr Afshar, spokesman for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, referred to the announcement that Kuwaiti ships will fly the U.S. flag next month [22 June-21 July], saying: As his excellency the imam said in his speech on the 'Id al-Fitr festival, our youths must not show the slightest sign of weakness and must deprive the enemy of any opportunity to recover its strength.

Therefore, following the remarks made by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, during Friday prayers on resisting possible plots hatched by world arrogance in the Persian Gulf and his invitation to all brave youths of the Islamic homeland to join the ranks of the combatants of Islam, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is placing all its naval units and missile units on alert to take revolutionary steps in the Persian Gulf and is implementing its plan for the all-round dispatch of the defenders of the Persian Gulf, comprising Guards, Mobilization personnel, and conscripts, on 28 June, the date of the martyrdom of 72 men and also the start of America's possible activities in the Persian Gulf.

God willing, with this dispatch we will give a timely and suitable answer to the plots of America and reactionary rulers in the Persian Gulf. [passage indistinct]

Reportage on Soviet Deputy Minister's Visit

Arrives, Met by Besharati

LD121541 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived here Friday morning and was welcomed at the airport by acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

In a brief interview upon his arrival, Vorontsov told IRNA that his visit aims at further expanding of Tehran-Moscow cooperation.

Vorontsov said he is also to follow up outcome of visit of Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Moscow last February, and that the two countries have matters of mutual interests including bilateral economic cooperation which will be discussed during his visit.

Besharati also said in the interview that in addition to exchanging views on regional issues and Persian Gulf, the two sides are to discuss expansion of mutual ties during Vorontsov's visit.

The Iranian acting minister reiterated Iran's firm stance on the Persian Gulf situation and said there would be no problem in the strategic waterway if Iraq ceased its attacks on ships, rather than continue to do so and thereby create an excuse for the superpowers to justify their military presence in the region.

U.S. Planning Projects in Gulf

LD131127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR deputy foreign minister, who is heading a political delegation visiting Tehran, this morning met with our country's deputy foreign minister. In this meeting, which lasted for 2 and 1/2 hours, various issues regarding bilateral relations were studied, and the two sides expressed happiness at the expansion of economic links and reviewed ways to increase and deepen them in order to achieve better understanding. The two parties also discussed existing important regional issues, in particular the Persian Gulf situation.

In this meeting, the USSR deputy foreign minister said: At no time and on no issues do we have interests or directions parallel to those of U.S. imperialism. At present, the Americans are in the process of planning some projects against Iran and the USSR in the Persian Gulf. He added: The Soviet Union respects and has continuously supported and Iranian revolution from the start.

During the meeting, our country's deputy foreign minister said: We stand powerfully steadfast and firm behind the principled stances of our revolution and of those important issues of the region.

Stresses Economic Ties

NC140822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, met with Mr Javad Iravani, minister of economic affairs and finance, at the ministry's offices yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, which was attended by the two countries' ambassadors in Tehran and Moscow, as well as the deputy minister for economic and international affairs and various directors and experts from the economic and foreign affairs ministries, they discussed economic ties and their expansion, which received a fresh boost after the 10th session of the joint economic cooperation committee held in Tehran.

Mr Iravani referred to the progress of the program to implement joint industrial projects, including the plan to expand the capacity of the Esfahan Metallurgical Complex to 1.9 million tons; complete and expand the Shahid Montazeri power station in Ramin, Ahvaz; increase cooperation in the use of border water resources; resume transportation of natural gas to the Soviet Union, as well as its transit across Soviet soil; initiate a joint maritime route in the Caspian Sea; and exploit the Caspian Sea's marine resources. He expressed the hope that the present level of cooperation would increase in scope in the future.

Mr Vorontsov stressed the need to expand the two countries' economic cooperation, saying that his country attaches importance to ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and will not spare any efforts in promoting them. The two sides then expressed optimism over the convening of the commission to follow up the 10th session of the permanent joint committee for economic cooperation between the two countries, scheduled to take place

in Tehran this year, and stated: This commission will help to prepare the ground and also eliminate possible bottlenecks in the expansion of our economic relations.

Discusses Gulf With Larijani

LD141003 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov yesterday afternoon met with Larijani, our country's deputy foreign minister of international and economic affairs. During the meeting, which lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, important regional issues, including the imposed war and developments in the Persian Gulf, were discussed at length.

At the meeting the USSR deputy foreign minister detailed moves and instigations by the United States in the Persian Gulf, and expounded on the objectives of that country. He conveyed to the Iranian side the latest views held by the USSR leadership.

Meets With Velayati

LD141529 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA — The visiting Soviet deputy foreign minister Yuliy Vorontsov today praised the braveries of the Iranian people in defending their revolution and country. Speaking in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Soviet official stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of countering any aggression or attack against its soil.

Velayati said in response that the Americans were too weak to do anything against Iran in the Persian Gulf. He reiterated that the task of maintaining security in the Persian Gulf and the region was the responsibility of the regional states and that no foreign power or superpower had the right or would be allowed to interfere. Velayati said at the present time there is no power on earth capable of blocking the way to the peoples who are determined to be their own masters and decide their own fate.

Pointing to the recent efforts of international assemblies to establish peace between Iran and Iraq, Velayati said these efforts particularly those by the U.N. Security Council would be worthy of attention when they opt to make just decisions and take the interests of the nations into consideration.

Vorontsov also conveyed the warm greetings of the Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Velayati. The two sides also expressed satisfaction with the improving trend in mutual relations and called for further activation and deepening of these ties. The Soviet deputy foreign minister arrived here June 12.

Received by Majlis Speaker

LD141746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] This afternoon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, received Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister. During the meeting, the Soviet deputy foreign minister conveyed the warm greetings of his country's officials and their invitation to Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Moscow. He said: The members of our parliament are extremely willing to establish extensive relations with the Iranian Majlis. They will be glad to welcome warmly an Iranian parliamentary delegation in Moscow. Referring to the recent expansion in mutual relations, he called for further cooperation in the economic and diplomatic fields.

While reviewing the recent developments in the region, Vorontsov expressed his country's official view on U.S. agitations and political-military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf. He said: The Soviet Union does not want foreigners and forces that do not belong to Persian Gulf countries to be present here. The USSR considers their presence to be a threat to the interests of the regional countries.

Expressing satisfaction with the expansion of mutual relations, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: If the two sides make an effort, we could have more cooperation than ever before. While reviewing the issue of the imposed war and the recent developments in the Persian Gulf, he said: The Iraqi regime started the war against Iran with U.S. support and occupied our soil. We are determined to continue the war until the downfall of that regime. He added: The recent disturbances in the Persian Gulf have been staged to increase the U.S. military presence. The United States used your small action [as heard] as an excuse for adventurism and justified it for the American public opinion. Finally, recounting the blows dealt by the Islamic Revolution of Iran to the United States, the Majlis speaker said: Our nation is determined to seriously confront foreigners if they interfere in the Persian Gulf.

Discusses Ties With Musavi

LD141923 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA — Visiting Soviet Foreign Ministry Deputy Yuliy Vorontsov met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday and informed him of his country's willingness to further deepen Tehran-Moscow relations.

In response, the premier said that Iran wants clear cut and friendly relations with the Soviet Union within framework of its (Iran) principles. Musavi expressed hope that policies of the two anti-imperialist countries would be coordinated both at the regional and international level. Iran's position concerning U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf is firm, the prime minister said noting that "The U.S. should be deprived of her pretext for interfering in the Persian Gulf."

Vorontsov extended an invitation to Musavi from his Soviet counterpart to visit Moscow, which was accepted, to be paid at an appropriate opportunity.

Confers With Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD151022 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA — Visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Yuliy Vorontsov expressed his country's deep concern over the recent developments in the Persian Gulf.

In a two-hour meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam here Sunday, he said that the U.S. instigations and its efforts to assemble a naval force in the region pose a great danger to regional peace. Vorontsov further elaborated on the U.S. moves in the U.N. Security Council including the proposed plans. The two sides also discussed bilateral ties besides the latest developments in the Persian Gulf in length.

During the meeting Vorontsov, outlining the improvements in Tehran-Moscow relations, called for further expansion of bilateral ties.

In response Sheykh ol-Eslam said that from the start of the imposed war Iran has resisted political bullying. "We are determined to topple the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and secure the safety of the Persian Gulf and if needed, will confront any foreign power", he added. On the U.N. Security Council's stance on the imposed-war Sheykh ol-Eslam said that its credibility will be seriously at stake if it does not take a positive stance to safeguard the interests of the Iranian people.

Discusses Gulf With Khamene'i

LD151245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] President Khamene'i today received Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister. During the meeting, the Soviet deputy foreign minister conveyed the warm greetings of Soviet President Gromyko and referred to the extraordinary importance of mutual relations in the opinion of his country's leaders. He called for the expansion of relations based on friendship and sincere cooperation as the two countries are neighbors.

Referring to the sensitive situation in the Persian Gulf region, he stressed: The United States must not interfere in the region at all. The U.S. claim of safeguarding its interests is illogical. The United States can only safeguard its interests on its own borders. Past experience has shown that U.S. involvement in any region has created disturbances there.

On the subject of Afghanistan and his government's firm decision concerning the evacuation of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and repelling any form of interference in that country's internal affairs, he said: We believe that Afghanistan should be a non-aligned and independent country and should be governed by the people of Afghanistan.

Regarding the issue of the imposed war, the Soviet deputy foreign minister said: We praise the heroic people of Iran who ousted the aggressor form their land.

He submitted a report to President Khamene'i on recent developments in his country. On the USSR's new proposal for scrapping nuclear weapons, he stressed the importance of maintaining world peace.

According to this report, President Khamene'i, while thanking him for the friendly greetings from the Soviet president, expressed satisfaction with the joint talks. Welcoming the expansion of cooperation between the two countries, he said: We totally endorse your remarks about your anxiety over U.S. hegemony and its presence in the Persian Gulf region.

The truth is that the military presence of America and other big powers in any region leads to unrest.

Stressing the point that the United States would be wise to learn a lesson from the Vietnam people's resistance and its defeat in that country and to act more wisely when dealing with the sensitive and important issue of the Persian Gulf region, the president said: If the United States continues on theis course, she will definitely stand to lose more and will suffer more blows.

Referring to the importance of the two countries being neighbors and considering the long border between them, the president said this should contribute to the strengthening of mutual relations and cooperation.

The president then referred to the war imposed by Iraq on Iran and the Iraqi regime's short-lived superiority. He said: You are fully aware that the possibility of the Iraqi regime's survival is very small. Since the war was imposed on us Iran decided to defend herself under any circumstances. Since that day, our resolve to punish the aggressor has become firmer with every passing day.

Regarding the Persian Gulf issue, he said: The Iraqi regime insists on bringing the war into the Persian Gulf but we believe in peace in the Persian Gulf.

The president then referred to the issue of disarmament among various world issues. He said: We are in favor of the contined sincere efforts toward nuclear disarmament.

Finally, the president stressed the need for good-neighborly relations and the expansion of mutual relations.

Reportage on Visit of Japanese Foreign Minister

Arrives 14 Jun

LD142109 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA — Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari arrived here late Sunday night at the head of a high-ranking delegation.

The Japanese team was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of other Foreign Ministry officials.

Upon arrival here, Kuranari described his official visit, though short, as a good opportunity to discuss bilateral relations as well as international and regional issues with Iranian officials.

He expressed hope that he will have explicit talks with the Islamic Republic authorities regarding the matters to be discussed.

Wants To Discuss Gulf Issue

OW150135 Tokyo KYODO in English 0126 GMT 15 Jun 87

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Tehran, June 14 *Kyodo* — Japan's Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari arrived here Sunday for talks with Iranian leaders in a mission aimed at seeking ways to end the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq. In a brief airport meeting with his Iranian opposite number, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Kuranari spoke obliquely of his peace mission, saying he would like to talk "candidly" with Iranian Government leaders over the tense situation in the Persian Gulf during his 36-hour visit here.

Kuranari has arranged a three-hour session with Velayati Monday morning following with a separate a courtesy call on President 'Ali khamene'i in the afternoon. He will also have a meeting with national assembly speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday morning before heading to Singapore and then on to Manila before returning home. Before coming here he visited Morocco and attended the seven-nation summit meeting in Venice, Italy.

Kuranari is the first cabinet minister from a Western bloc nation to visit Iran since leaders of the major industrialized democracies at the summit issued a call last Tuesday for an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war, now in its eighth year. He is expected to brief Iranian leaders on the statement, which also called for an unimpeded flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Kuranari trip comes amid growing tension in the Gulf, the key waterway channeling more than half of Japan's oil imports.

The Japanese Government, which maintains friendly ties with both Iran and Iraq, has sought a negotiated settlement of the Gulf military conflict, which has threatened oil traffic in the area. A total of 244 ships, most of them oil tankers, have been attacked in the Gulf since the two warring parties stepped up their actions against civilian shipping in 1984. So far this year, 43 ships, including 36 tankers, have been attacked, according to a Japanese Government count.

The threat to shipping in the Gulf became a major international issue after an Iraqi missile accidentally hit the U.S. frigate *Stark* on May 17, killing 37 seamen. The attack was described by both Iraq and Washington as inadvertent.

Meets With Velayati

OW150943 Tokyo KYODO in English 0909 GMT 15 Jun 87

[by Antonio Kamiya]

[Excerpts] Tehran, June 15 *Kyodo* — Japan's Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari began a series of talks with Iranian Government leaders Monday as a senior Iranian diplomat expressed support for freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted] Japan has called for an immediate end of the Gulf war in pushing for a free flow of oil in the vital Gulf waterway, which carries more than half of Japan's oil imports.

Kuranari began a scheduled two-hour session with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the Iranian Foreign Ministry with the Gulf war and freedom of navigation in the Gulf figuring high on the agenda. [passage omitted]

Requests Free Navigation

OW151203 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 15 *Kyodo* — Japan's Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari urged Iran Monday to exercise strong self-restraints to ensure freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf, Japanese officials said. Kuranari, in a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, also called for Iran's flexible stance to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war which is heading toward its eighth year since the conflict began in September 1980.

Kuranari, here after attending the June 8-10 Venice summit and a visit to Morocco, briefed Velayati about a summit statement calling for an end to the war and for safe navigation through the Gulf, the officials said.

Velayati, acknowledging the importance of freedom of navigation, accused Iraq of posing threats to navigation through the Persian Gulf, they said. Velayati reaffirmed Iran's three-point preconditions for peace — total withdrawl of Iraqi troops, Iraq's payment of war compensations and punishment of Iraqi war criminals.

Kuranari urged Iran not to stick to its preconditions, calling on Velayati to become more flexible, the officials said.

U.S. Presence Termed 'Hostile'

OW151335 Tokyo KYODO in English 1330 GMT 15 Jun 87

[by Antonio Kamiya]

[Excerpts] Tehran, June 15 *Kyodo* — Japan's Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari Monday called on Iran to ensure freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf but Iran responded with its "if you attack me I will counterattack" stand, Japanese officials said. Kuranari raised the Gulf shipping issue in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the first in a series of talks the Japanese foreign minister has set during his three-day visit here.

Kuranari, in Tehran since Sunday, is traveling here to underline Japan's diplomatic efforts to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war and freedom of navigation in the Gulf, a vital sea-lane for oil shipments to Japan and the West.

Japanese officials, briefing reporters on the two and a half hour meeting at the Foreign Ministry, said Velayati stuck to the Iranian position on its war with Iraq and attacks on mercantile shipping in the Gulf. "If the Iraqis stop attacking our ships, we will also stop our attack," a Japanese official present at the meeting said in paraphrasing the Iranian foreign minister.

In an article published in a local newspaper Monday, Iranian Ambassador to Japan Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli said Iran wants shipping in the Persian Gulf to be "safe for all."

Western diplomatic sources here say Iraq regards its attacks on Iranian oil shipping in the Gulf as part of its strategy to weaken in Iranian war effort. "Iran pours most of foreign exchange earnings from oil exports to its war efforts, a Western diplomat said. [passage omitted]

Velayati also termed the presence of American warships in the Gulf as "hostile" to Iran, Japanese officials said. [passage omitted] The threat to navigation in the Gulf erupted into a major issue after an Iraqi missile hit the U.S. missile frigate *Stark* on May 17, killing 37 seamen on board.

Last Tuesday, the seven major industrialized nations meeting for their 13th economic summit in Venice issued a political statement declaring that the "free flow of oil and other traffic through the Strait of Hormuz must continue unimpeded."

On bilateral ties, Velayati urged Japan to buy more oil from Iran and sell industrial technology to the country.

Kuranari also called on Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday aftenoon. He meets with national assembly speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday morning before leaving for Singapore to attend a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers.

More on Talks With Velayati

LD151329 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Kuranari, who is leading a delegation presently in Iran, in a meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati this morning discussed his visit which comes at Velayati's invitation and falls within the framework of agreements reached on annual meetings between both sides during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Japan. He said: We consider Iran's problems as our own and we intend to cooperate in rebuilding [sazandegi] Iran as much as possible.

According to our correspondent, the two sides discussed technological and economic cooperation, including agricultural activity, exchange of experts, as well as increased oil exports from Iran to Japan, and the exchange of economic and political officials. Further, the Japanese foreign minister issued an invitation to Velayati to visit Japan; he accepted.

During an exchange of views on international affairs, Kuranari noted the Iraqi-imposed war and said: I know Iran wants to see the war end honorably; it pursues an honorable and just peace. Noting Japan' concern over the critical situation in the Persian Gulf, he said: Attacks on merchant vessels are not justifiable under any circumstance or on any pretext. If the attacks on vessels in the Persian Gulf which have been stopped since 22 May [as heard] are not resumed, I think the situation will ease.

About the UN Security Council, the Japanese foreign affairs minister stated: We believe that discussions about the imposed war should not be limited to the five permanent members. We have always said that their contacts with Iran are a very important factor.

Responding to the issues discussed, Velayati said: The security of the Persian Gulf is of such importance to the world that it must be considered separately from the war issue. The security of the Persian Gulf concerns only the regional states. The importance of its security and its fate apart from the war are commonly agreed upon by the regional states — the majority are opposed to foreign powers' interfering in the region. Kuwait alone does not agree with this policy and is facing criticism from other countries.

Velayati added: The Security Council has not had a realistic approach in its previous resolutions either. What obligations do we have to a plan which has been drawn up by others without our views or that of the temporary members [of the Security Council]? We are not afraid of the Security Council or the Venice summit, or even the United States. We ourselves believe in the security of the Persian Gulf and believe that the tranquility of the region is linked withth removal of the superpowers' military forces. In the same vein, we have welcomed proposals by some countries on refraining from attacks on vessels and providing guarantees of security. We consider the above to be the most practical step to be taken in the Persian Gulf. About the imposed war, Velayati said: Our condition vis-a-vis Saddam's exit is not illogical or unconventional. If the Saddamist regime departs without a fight, we have no reason to continue the war.

Foreign Minister Velayati Visits PRC

For PRC media coverage of the visit of 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the People's Republic of China, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 15 June China *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Reelected Majlis Speaker

LD141113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Excerpt] In today's meeting of the Majlis, debate on a draft bill concerning the Islamic Republic Army was completed and the bill was approved by the deputies.

Our correspondent reports that the election of the Majlis standing body for the final year of the second legislative term was held. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was reelected Majlis speaker by 183 votes for, 12 against, and 35 abstentions out of a total of 230 votes.

Mohammad Yazdi and Mahdi Karrubi were also elected as deputy speakers, while Seyyed Jalil Seyyedzadeh, Gholam 'Abbas Zare, and Seyyed Reza Zavarehi were elected as supply officers.

Mohammad Esma'il Shushtari, Seyyed Fazlollah Hoseyni-Barama'i, Mohammad 'Ali Sobhanollahi, 'Ali Movahedi Savoji, Ezzatollah Dehqan, and Assadollah Bayat were elected secretaries to the standing body. [passage omitted]

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,865

LD121631 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — Iranian gunboats intercepted and searched eight cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The 2865th Joint Staff Communique released here Friday said the Iranian Navy also checked activities of Iraqi vessels around the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and Al-'Amyah and Al-Bakr oil platforms in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf.

Forty percent of an Iraqi military pase in Panjwin, northwestern fronts was destroyed and most enemy soldiers there killed or wounded by Iranian artillery fire Thursday. One enemy munitions dump and several gun emplacements were also set ablaze.

In the southern fronts yesterday, Iranian artillery fire destroyed vast parts of Iraqi forefront defence lines and several enemy observation posts.

Iranian patrol convoys ambushed Iraqi troops in the Western fronts Thursday, dealng effective blows on them. In Eynkhosh, Iraqi armoured units suffered losses and their fire was silenced when hit by Iranian artillery fire thursday.

Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi motorized units in Hajj 'Umran, Mehran, Nahr 'Anbar and Qasr-e Shirin Thursday, disrupting their movements and destroying some enemy vehicles, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,866

LD131657 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA — Iranian Navy intercepted and searched 11 commercial ships and tankers in Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to set sail when no Iraq-destined cargo was found on board, the 2866th communique of the armed forces said here today.

The communique added that Iranian gendarmerie forces suppressed several Iraqi patrol units in Dehloran, western fronts, and southern war sector Friday and Saturday destroying more than 15 enemy gun emplacements and killing a group of Iraqi soldiers.

Iraqi engineering activities in other parts of the southern fronts were halted by Iranian Muslim forces who also set afire and destroyed parts of enemy infantry positions and gun emplacements, killing five enemy soldiers in Yebis operational theater.

Iranian Muslim combatants brought enemy strongholds and military equipment under mortar and tank fire throughout war fronts destroying several Iraqi munitions dumps, five heavy and light engineering vehicles and killing a number of Iraqi troops in the northwestern fronts.

Patrol units of the Iranian forces also inflicted some losses and casualties on the enemy in mountainous areas of the western fronts as well as Khuzestan plain.

Iraq Bombs Sardasht Area

LD140917 Tehran IRAN in English 0858 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed the villages of Berliso and Niskabad [names as received] near Sardasht, West Azarbayjan Province, Saturday martyring two villagers and wounding several others.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime resorts to these criminal acts such as raids on residential areas to cover its flagrant defeats at the war fronts. He added that the Muslim combatants will undoubtedly retaliate against the enemy crimes and the silence of international forums over it, at the war fronts.

Communique No 2,867

LD141641 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA — Eleven foreign cargo vessels and tankers were intercepted and searched by Iranian Navy in Strait of Hormuz Saturday, but were allowed to continue voyage since no Iraq-bound cargo turned up on board, according to a joint staff communique released here today.

Communique no. 2867 added that artillery fire on Iranian forces on Iraqi positions throughout fronts destroyed several gun emplacements, watch posts, a munitions dump and a military vehicle killing and wounding at least 10 Iraqi soldiers.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout battlefields raging more heavily in Kushk and Bubiyan operational theaters where considerable casualties and losses were inflicted on the enemy.

Iranian patrol units checked and brought under fire movements of Iraqi motorized columns in sensitive areas of war sector destroying some Iraqi positions and inflicting casualties on them. All Iranian patrols returned safely to bases after the operations, said the communique.

More than 10 Iraqi heavy and light gun emplacements were destroyed and a group of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded when their strongholds in parts of the southern and western fronts came under artillery fire of Iranian gendarmerie forces, said the communique.

Bomb Found Outside U.S. AID Office in Quetta

BK150924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Islamabad, June 15 (AFP) — A bomb concealed in a briefcase was defused late Sunday outside the offices of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) in Quetta, southwest Pakistan, police said.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Islamabad confirmed that a briefcase filled with explosives connected to a detonator was discovered by a passer-by outside the AID offices in Quetta and taken away by police.

Also in the southwestern Pakistan, two other bombs were defused outside shops in Afghan refugee camps Sunday, local corespondents said.

Junejo Withdraws Defense Tax From Proposed Budget

BK121700 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has announced the withdrawal of defense tax. Additional taxes on kerosene oil, diesel, and domestic connections of Sui gas and electricity have been withdrawn. He announced this while addressing the National Assembly in Islamabad this evening.

The prime minister assured the house that the nation with the elected government would keep them in confidence while taking every major decision. He announced a number of measures to enforce austerity in the government expenditure, improve tax collection system, and to check corruption and tax evasion. The prime minister asked the Public Accounts Committee to check the accounts of the 2 years of his government and submit reports before the house for discussion so that the mistakes, if any, should be corrected, weaknesses identified, and redressal of measures taken.

The prime minister pointed out that when the budget was presented and the discussion was being held by the members of the National Assembly, he was on a 3-day visit to the northern areas. He said he was having information that the taxation proposals in the budget have direct [words indistinct] common man. Soon after his arrival, he called in a meeting of the parliamentary party of the Pakistan Muslim League to review the budget, particularly the taxation proposals. He told the house that usually a budget is prepared by the Finance Ministry and a few people are involved in its preparation. Before the budget for the next financial year, the present elected government [words indistinct], but no burden was put on the common man [words indistinct].

The prime minister said the elected government then appointed a special committee to examine the budget as a whole and hold discussions with the Finance Ministry about the same. The committee held detailed discussions with the Finance Ministry during the past 3 days and gave a comprehensive proposal for consideration to the federal cabinet.

The federal cabinet in its meeting today considered these proposals in detail and decided that the changes should be made in the budget, particularly in the taxation proposals, so that there may not be any economic burden on the common man and their conditions [words indistinct]. The prime minister asked the people that they should put forward their grievances through their elected representatives.

He urged the business community to reduce the prices of essential commodities to the level on the 3d of June. He warned them that if the prices were not brought to that level, the government machinery would be geared up to take action against the defaulters. He also urged the business community to avoid tax evasion so that the government will be able to carry out the developmental activities for the welfare of the people.

The prime minister said sterner laws are to be enacted to contain corruption. A number of steps have already been taken for this purpose. These include an anticorruption committee at the federal level and district anticorruption committees.

The prime minister said it has been decided that he would use only 1600 cc cars, the federal ministers 1300 cc, and the federal secretaries and officers of the grade 22 will have 1000 cc cars. These will also include generals. From today he has asked the procurement division that no new car will be purchased. The exception would be made in the case of guests from abroad. The heads of corporations and senior bank executives would be replacing their cars with Suzukis. He warned that serious action would be taken against the officials indulging in the misuse of cars.

Public Hails Tax Revisions

BK131452 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 June 87

[Text] Leaders of public opinion and the general public from all over the country have welcomed the prime minister's announcement on the withdrawal of several taxes and the adoption of austerity measures. They say the prime minister has created a new democratic tradition by effecting important changes in the budget by respecting the actual needs and sentiments of the people. This indicates that the government is fully aware of the people's sentiments and that the prime minister and his party have proved their sincerity and profound love and affection for the common masses.

Dr Mahbubul Haq, federal minister for commerce, planning and development, said the prime minister has presented a new fiscal philosophy by revising the budget. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, federal minister for local government and rural development and Pakistan Muslim League Party secretary general, said by respecting the wishes of the people the elected government has added a new chapter to the history of Pakistan. Haji Hanif Taiyab, federal minister for works and housing, has lauded the adoption of austerity measures as applied to daily life. Begum Kulsum Saifullah, minister of state for commerce, said the prime minister has upheld the decisions made by the Pakistan Muslim League parliamentary party. Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, minister of state for petroleum and natural resources, said the prime minister has established an example of accountability. Ghulam Moham-

mad Mahar, minister of state for health, said the decision will greatly benefit the poor people.

Bashir Ahmad Khan Bakhtiar, president of the All Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions, said he has been highly impressed by the measures announced by the prime minister, and the federation will cooperate with the government in the implementation of these measures. Acting president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Khalid Tawab, said the measures will being down prices of daily consumer goods. Firoze Qasim, president of Karachi Stock Exchange, said the business community hailed the new budgetary proposals and austerity measures. Shabbir Ahmad Khan, president of the Rawalpindi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, welcomed the decision on reducing administrative expenses.

Mohsin Aziz, the president of the NWFP Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the prime minister's awareness of the people's reaction to the budgetary proposals is a part of democratic values. Iftikhar Ali Malik, the chairman of the Association of Importers and Dealers of Vehicle Spare Parts, said the entire nation, especially the business community, has welcomed the revised budgetary proposals. Haji Malik Mohammad Siddique, the secretary general of Pakistan Road Transport Workers Federation, said the measures will improve the people's living standard and prices will come down to the prebudget level.

Lahore Mayor Mian Shujaur Rahman said the prime minister did precisely what he thought was in the best interest of the people and not for his personal prestige. Dr Rafique Ahmed, the Punjab University vice chancellor and eminent economist, said the prime minister's decision to present his government before the Public Accounts Committee for an examination of accounts will reinforce the moral values of the nation.

NWFP Assembly Hails Junejo Move

BK141558 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] In its session in Peshawar today, the NWFP assembly adopted a resolution paying homage to the prime minister for revising [words indistinct] the budget in accordance with the aspirations of the people. The resolution says that this decision is timely and in the traditions of democracy.

In another resolution, the NWFP assembly condemned the communal riots in India and urged the federal cabinet to pressure the Government of India for total security for minorities there.

Sri Lankan Security Minister Arrives 14 June

BK141712 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, arrived in Islamabad this evening. Speaking to newsmen he said that he came to Pakistan to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and matters pertaining to narcotics.

Decline in Overseas Worker Remittances Noted

BK121331 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
27 May 87 p 4

[Editorial:"Falling Home Remittances"]

[Text] A fall in home remittances by 12 percent has been described as one of the four disturbing features of the current year's economic performance by the Planning Minister Dr. Mahbubul Haq. The decline from last year's 2.6 billion dollars to 2.3 billion dollars this year has been part of a continuous fall in the money sent home by Pakistanis abroad, which reached a peak of over 3 billion dollars in 1982-83. Added to that is the substantial fall in the exchange rate of the dollar against other major currencies, particularly the Japanese yen and Deutsche mark. This does not come as a surprise to any one except our planners who had formulated the Sixth Plan on the basis of home remittances rising by 10 percent annually to reach 4.6 billion dollars by 1988 from 2.8 billion dollars. Instead remittances have sunk to 2.3 billion dollars in the fourth year of the Plan. The position next year may be worse. This is to be expected as it is part of a world trend, and countries which depended heavily on remittances are in dire economic straits now. In fact, Pakistan's remittances would have been far less if they did not contain a part of heroin earnings as well as of the funds sent out from here and recycled back to avoid paying taxes, or as a cover for the earnings through outright corruption or crime. And the remittances could have been more if Pakistanis working abroad were not permitted to send home or bring with them a vast variety of costly consumerable durables, including automobiles and a vast variety of electrical equipment for sale in the local market. Dr. Mahbubul Haq wants to make up for falling remittances through larger exports, and to use remittances for development instead of paying for current consumption. Boosting exports is now the only way out, otherwise imports will have to be cut, particularly non-essential imports. But how well Pakistan can cope with the slide in overseas workers' remittances, remains an open question.

Government Agrees To Accept Indian Relief Aid

BK151228 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Colombo, June 15 (AFP) — Sri Lanka has agreed to accept relief supplies for the Jaffna Peninsula from India, a spokesman for the Indian High Commission here said Monday. Agreement was reached Monday after talks between Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed.

The talks began last week after India had dropped 25 tonnes of supplies by air on the Jaffna Peninsula on June 4 following Sri Lanka's refusal to allow a small sea convoy to sail into its territorial waters two days before.

The amount of relief was to be mutually decided, the spokesman said, but India hoped the relief would start moving by the end of this week. Indian ships escorted by the Sri Lankan Navy would carry the aid to the northern Jaffna Peninsula port of Kankesanthurai, the spokesman said.

India says the aid is destined for Tamils facing starvation. Sri Lanka has strongly denied New Delhi's allegations that thousands of Tamils on the Jaffna Peninsula faced starvation in the aftermath of the Sri Lankan Army's offensive against Tamil separatists. India also said hundreds had died in the offensive, while Colombo put the official civilian death toll at less than 50.

The Indian High Commission said Mr. Dixit had stressed in the tasks that the food aid must be delivered urgently. New Delhi hoped the ships could sail by the end of this week or by the latest at the start of next week. India has stocked about 1,000 tonnes of essential food supplies at Rameswaram, the closest point to Sri Lanka and only a few hours sailing from Kankesanthurai.

President Expresses Hope for India's Cooperation

BK121143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] Buddhism should guide the government in Sri Lanka, according to President J.R. Jayewardene, who points out that under the guidance of the dharma [religion] no one would be harassed. The president in announcing his intention also expressed the belief that such a move would help to guide the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Tamil Nadu chief minister to the correct path. He was speaking after the inauguration of the (Seemarakharya) Buddhist Center at the ancient city of Anuradhapura yesterday.

Mr Jayewardene said that his father was a follower of Christ but he became a Buddhist by understanding the dharma which shows the correct path. He noted that no one would be able to sway them at any time because of the path of dharma chosen by them. The president said that similarly they are sure of victory in the fight against terrorism.

Mr Jayewardene expressed the wish that Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Ramachandran will have a clear idea and understanding of the present problem in Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that the terrorists will not lay down arms as long as they received help from India. He pointed out that there is no truth in the reasons attributed by some that terrorism in the north and east is due to several factors, including language.

Minister on International Response to Airdrop

BK141134 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Sri Lanka is satisfied and encouraged by the international response to the situation following the unilateral decision by India to airdrop so-called relief supplies to the Jaffna Peninsula.

Foreign Affairs Minister Shahul Hameed, interviewed over the Voice of America by Ravi Khanna, said that he understood the limitations faced by countries when they have to respond to a situation of this nature. Mr Hameed said that Sri Lanka has placed its case before the UN secretary general and has still not determined the strategy the country would adopt at the Security Council.

The foreign minister described the airdropping as nothing but a political stunt by the Indian Government to satisfy the people of Tamil Nadu. We said this unwanted action has disturbed the good relations between the two countries.

Mr Hameed said Indian cooperation is vital in finding a lasting solution to the ethnic problem because it still provides a safe haven to the Tamil Tigers [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the Tamil Nadu State.

Foreign Minister To Attend SAARC Meeting

BK131309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Sri Lanka has confirmed that its foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, will attend the ministerial meeting of SAARC in New Delhi next week. This was formally communicated to the Government of India by the Sri Lankan high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna.

Mr Hameed said in Colombo that the decision to attend the meeting was taken today after a meeting with President Jayewardene. He will arrive in New Delhi on Wednesday.

With Colombo confirming its full participation, the seven nations of SAARC are set to begin important meetings from tomorrow to consolidate the process of regional cooperation. The 2-day program committee meeting begins from tomorrow.

The standing committee will meet from Tuesday and it will be followed by the meeting of council of ministers.

India is to put forward a proposal for establishing a food security reserve at the meeting which will discuss, among other things, the report of the group on terrorism.

Security Minister on Need To Liberate Jaffna

BK141201 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] The people should go about their business peacefully allowing security measures and other strategy to be handled by those concerned. This advice was given by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, when he spoke at the opening of the 139 mahapola [fair] [words indistinct] at the Vijitha Mahavidyalaya [high school] (Dikwanna) in southern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Explaining the recent security activities, Mr Athulathmudali said that the Jaffna Peninsula has to be liberated gradually from the fascist terrorists. The minister said that this excercise to re-establish law and order and peace in Jaffna should be undertaken by winning over the Tamil population. Mr Athulathmudali stressed that it is the aim of the government to solve the problem in a peaceful manner through discussion. The terrorists, however, are not willing to adopt this approach. In this situation, the minister observed that the government was left without an alternative. Mr Athulathmudali also expressed regret that India has fallen prey to the false propaganda of terrorists.

Several parliamentarians were also present on the occasion.

'Separatist Terrorists' Fire on Jaffna Fort

BK140659 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0628 GMT 14 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 14 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Separatist terrorists directed rifle and small arms fire at the Jaffna Fort Army Camp in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, the Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath*. There were no casualties among the security forces.

Government troops on a clearing operation in the Kottawatti area yesterday recovered one T-56 magazine, two hand grenades, five Claymore mines, one land mine, one walkie talkie, one microscope and a digital PH indicator robbed from a chemical analysis laboratory in the Jaffna town.

At Velvettiturai, yesterday, a security force patrol discovered a land mine buried at the Polykady Junction near Tikkam which had been buried long before the Vadamarachchi operation. As troops were defusing the land mine a few separatist terrorists who had infiltrated to the area attacked the troops with small arms. Troops effectively repulsed the attack forcing the terrorists to flee from the area.

At Sinnavattuvan-Mankerny, in Trincomalee, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, troops on a routine operation had to face a booby trap. The patrol escaped with only very minor injuries.

A gang of separatists terrorists entered the paper corporation at Valachchenai in (?Batticaloa), eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, and having threatened the guards [words indistinct] a tractor 36 SRI 8997, a trailer 46 SRI 1530, six oxygen cylinders, pedal cycles and a box full of first aid equipment.

Six separatist terrorists were captured at Pullyar Adi near Urani, Batticaloa yesterday by [words indistinct]. Interrogations are proceeding.

More Refugees Reportedly Return From South India

BK131122 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] Another batch of Sri Lankan refugees has returned home from Tamil Nadu [Indian state]. The Media Center said that 82 refugees — 20 males, 40 females, and 13 children [figures as heard] — arrived at Talaimannar on the 12th in two vallams [boats] and two dinghies.

With the arrival of the latest batch, the number of returning refugees so far this year exceeds 5,220.

The Media Center also reported that LTTE terrorists massacred three villagers and a 2-year-old child at Lahugala in (Boghananda) in the Amparai District. All those killed were Sinhalese villagers. A 10-year old boy, the son of a couple killed by the terrorists, escaped.

The Media Center added that home guards, alerted by gunshots and cries, fired at the terrorists who withdrew.